# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

## 2026-2027

Presented by Lisa Balzano
Gold Ridge Elementary

# Welcome to 3rd Grade!

1.Hello! Please come in and find your child's desk.

2. Can you find your child's Self Portrait?

3. Please sign the movie permission slip to watch classroom films (G and PG rating only)

Thank you for being here tonight!

# MEET THE TEACHER



~Intervention teacher for 4 years with FCUSD

~Duel Credential in Connecticut and California

~M.S. in Education and Psychology Undergrad

~Love being a Mom to two boys, ages 12 and 16

~Love to explore, bike, read and play tennis













# CLASSROM CULTURE

- In our class, there's space for everyone—fast learners, slow thinkers, big question-askers, quiet dreamers, and loud laughers, too!
- We're a team that cheers each other on, learns from our mistakes, and knows it's okay to not know... yet ( Growth mindset)

- Our room is a safe and kind place where all kids can grow. We use kind words, help each other out, and stand up for what's right—because in our classroom, there's no room for hate. Only kindness, courage, and lots of learning.

# ARRIVAL

- Park and walk your student up. Students will go to the multipurpose room before school.
- Teachers will meet their students in the multi and walk together to class at the first bell.
- Arrival is any time after 8:00 am. (Breakfast arrival 7:40)
- Arrive early - the first bell rings at 8:12 and the second bell rings at 8:15.
- School starts promptly at 8:15.
- Late arrivals should head to the office for a late slip before walking to class.

# DAILY SCHEDULE

~8:15 Arrival, Morning Meeting
~8:30 SIPPS/ELA
~9:50 Recess
~10:00 Math block
~10:40 Writing
~11:00 Recess
~11:10 Lunch

*P.E. 30 minutes 2x/week

*Library 25 minutes 1x/week

~11:45 WIN Time (starting in Sept
~12:20 Read Aloud
~12:40 Reading
~1:15 Mileage Club
~1:45 Specials (Science, Art, SEL, etc)
~2:15 Music
~2:30 Afternoon Meeting
~2:45 Dismissal

# READING CURRICULUM

## ~BENCHMARK ADVANCE~

**Daily Reading Lessons Include:**

~Read Aloud Text
~Comprehension Focus
~Building Vocabulary Skills
~Discussion Oriented

**Skills:**

~Making Connections
~Author's Purpose and
~Point of View
~Main Idea and Key Details
~Summarizing
~Predicting

# PHONICS CURRICULUM

## ~SIPPS~

- Main focus is 3rd grade literacy
- 40 minutes daily phonics instruction
- Weekly spelling tests - progress monitoring
- Homework log will have similar patterns to practice

*All students need phonics! Sight word readers eventually tend to fall behind students with phonics skills

# MATH CURRICULUM

## ~THINKING MATH~

Topics:

- Addition & Subtraction within 1,000
- Multiplication
- Math Fact Fluency
- Place Value - Base Ten (Hundreds, Tens, Ones)
- Elapsed Time
- Counting Money
- Shapes
- Measurement

Strategies and Tools:

- Manipulatives
- Drawings and Models
- Equations
- Open Number Lines
- Number Talks
- Choral Counting

# WRITING CURRICULUM

## ~MYSTERY WRITING~

### Writing Process:

- Brainstorm
- Pre-write
- Rough Draft
- Revise and Edit
- Publish

### Writing Styles:

- Personal Narrative
- Opinion
- Informational
- How-To Stories
- Imaginative
- Poetry
- Letter Writing

# SCIENCE CURRICULUM

~Amplify and Mystery Science~

Topics:

- Habitats - major habitats of the world
- Habitats - local wetlands study
- States of Matter
- Plants
- STEM
- Erosion and Changes to Earth
- Zoo Research Reports

# SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

## ~TCI and Benchmark Advance~

Topics:

- Government
- Inventors and Innovators
- Famous Americans
- Investigating the Past
- Basic Economy
- Holidays
-

Methods:

- Research
- Discussion
- Video Discovery
- Novel Studies

# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL EDUCATION

## ~Second Step and SEL Curriculum~

Practices:

- Daily SEL Check-Ins
- Regulation breaks
- Connection activities
- Hands-on learning
- Games

Second Step Topics:

- Growth Mindset
- Goal Setting
- Emotion Management
- Empathy
- Kindness
- Problem Solving

# 3rd Grade Schoolwide Expectations

## Positive Behavior Supports:

- SOAR Tickets
- Positive Reinforcement
- SOAR Store
- SOAR Assemblies

S: Self Control
O: On-task
A: Achievement
R: Respect

- Be Safe
- Be Kind
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Honest
- Be Ready to learn
- Have a growth mindset

# PBIS

## Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

<u>Steps When Our Class Agreement is Broken</u>

1: Warning (Gentle Reminder of Expectation)

2: Move Away (work in a quiet location in the classroom for a short period of time, or loss of a preferred choice at recess)

3: Note Home: The Family Letter explains to parents and will be signed/returned

4: Office Visit with Principal Sol

# FCUSD
# ~Attendance Policy~

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS:

- Attendance is the #1 sign a student will graduate.
- Kids who miss 9+ days are 2x more likely to drop out.
- If your family is facing challenges, let's meet and make a plan to support your student.

## REMINDERS:

- Vacations and trips should be scheduled outside of the school year. There are more non-school days than school days in a year!
- Parent-Excused Absences: You have 10 days per year for health reasons (mental or physical). After that, we need a doctor's note.

## MISSED DAYS ADD UP:

- Being 20 minutes late per day = 2.5 weeks missed each year
- Missing 1 day every 2 weeks = 4 weeks missed each year

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

- Talk to your teacher, principal, or front office anytime. Let's work together!
- Please report every absence to the front office.

# HOMEWORK

Students will have daily homework that reinforces class lessons and skills.

- Reading (20 minutes) please initial nightly that you read to/with/listened to your child read. Some examples include:
    - Fluency pages, SIPPS reading passages and library books
- Spelling Test Prep - phonics patterns we are currently learning
-

*Homework comes back to school daily in their blue homework folders. Homework logs are due every Friday. Please initial they have done their reading. Encourage your child to keep the blue homework folder in his/her backpack at all times. *FCUSD's homework policy can be found on the FCUSD website under the link "For Parents"

# BLUE FOLDER

## ~HOMEWORK~

Blue Homework Folder – lives in backpack

- Check folders and backpacks regularly
- Assigned daily, Monday through Thursday
- Math practice is turned in the next day
- Homework log turned in on Fridays
- Homework is ungraded, but offers extra practice and preps for strong routines
- Encourage ownership and independence with remembering to put homework back in backpacks!
- If your child forgets their homework, it is a great learning opportunity!
  (please don't bring it for them- they can turn it in the next day)

# COMMUNICATION

## Gold Ridge Eagle Folders:

~Folders go home every Wednesday.

~PTO flyers, communications from Gold Ridge and FCUSD, completed work, graded tests and more.

~Please empty it out before sending it back on Thursday.

## Classroom News:

- Weekly homework log - read Classroom News every week for announcements
- Parent Square - Classroom Posts
- Important School News will be posted in Parent Square - please download the app!

## Contact the Teacher:

- Direct emails
- Direct Message from Parent Square app
- "Handle with Care" email can be used for hard mornings-no questions asked.

# ASSESSMENT AND GROWTH

## Assessments:

- STAR Reading
- STAR Math
- SIPPS Spelling average
- Benchmark Advance Comprehension
- Oral Fluency Passages
- Thinking Math End of Topic tests
- Lifelong learning skills for behaviors and citizenship

## Progress Reporting:

- Trimester Records (Report Cards 3x / year mid-November, end of February and end of May)
- Assess Academic Skills
- Uses M, D, I System
- (Meets/Exceeds, Developing, Limited)
- Will be explained more at November Parent-Teacher Conferences.

# VOLUNTEERING AND DONATIONS

## Parent Volunteers Needed!

- 1-2 Room Parents
  (Help with organizing class parties)
- 2-3 Eagle Art Docents
- 3-4 Garden Helpers
- 1 Yearbook Helper (computer-savvy helps)
- Field Trips Volunteers
- Prepping art or craft projects/ filing/ etc

## Ways to Donate to the Class:

~Target Gift Cards

~Amazon Gift Cards

~These are used to replenish supplies throughout the year.

Thank you for any support you can offer ❤️

*Please email me if you are interested in volunteering. All volunteers must be cleared as a category 2 volunteer. Volunteers must check in at the office and wear a badge on campus.

# LIBRARY

~ Every week, students visit the Gold Ridge library and select two books for the week.

~ Library books should LIVE in your child's backpack, only taken out when being read (that way, they are never, ever lost!).

~These books may be used for their nightly reading homework.

# FOOD AND WATER

Water Bottle: Students should bring a water bottle each day. NO JUICE, Gatorade, sodas, coffee, iced tea, etc in class. (SCHOOL POLICY)
*Please practice opening and closing it with them - they should be able to manage it independently.
Recess snack: Please send a healthy snack for recess each day. This allows your child to have some good nutrition to keep learning before lunch time.
Lunch: Hot lunch is available for all students daily! It is NO COST to students. There will be fresh fruits and/or vegetables offered daily.
As always, you may send a bag lunch daily. Do not send candy or soda to school.
Thank you!

# HEADPHONES

Headphones: Each student needs a pair of headphones to be used in class. These will stay at school all year.

*Please have a pair of headphones for your student this year, it is important.

# BIRTHDAYS

We love celebrating birthdays!

- We will sing and celebrate your child on their special day!
- Summer birthdays celebrated in May
- Invitations will not be passed out in class. Please do this outside of the school day.
- Birthday treats are enjoyed at the END of the day or at recess.
- Must be individually wrapped prior to sending in to school (bring enough for 25 children)
- No homemade food please (if you choose food, store bought only)
- Non-food ideas include pencils, fun erasers, stickers, bookmarks, etc.
- No single serving or sheet cakes.
- Save balloons and presents for home

# HANDLE WITH CARE



If something challenging is happening with your child outside of school and they may be having a hard time or just a hard morning, email me with the subject line "Handle with Care."

~ You don't have to provide any more details if you do not have time or want to keep things private. No questions will be asked. This will just clue me in that your child needs extra care and love that day.

~ My email is: LBalzano@FCUSD.ORG

# PHOTOS

~ The district "opt out" photo agreement means you are opting out of everything - yearbook, school-wide photos, and also including any photo collages I send throughout the year via email. I try to snap photos to share with parents of some of the amazing learning happening throughout the year.

~ If you opt out, your child will not be photographed or have an emoji over his/her face. Typically, parents LOVE these emails!

# DISMISSAL

- Parents may wait in front of the school by the gate near the cafeteria and flag pole.
- Third graders are dismissed one at a time to parents/caregivers.
- Dismissal time is 1:21 throughout August 9th. (1:15 on Thursdays).
- Dismissal at 2:45 beginning Monday, August, 10th.
- Students not picked up promptly will wait inside the office.

# *REMINDERS*

- Gold Ridge is a closed campus. Checking in at the office is required.
- NO DOGS on campus, even at drop off or pick up.
- Toys are not allowed at school; please keep them at home.
- Please call the office if your child is going to be late or absent.
- Closed toe shoes only! No flip flops or open-toed sandals.
- Please join the PTO!!

# DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

*PLEASE LEAVE A NOTE FOR YOUR CHILD ON A STICKY NOTE TO SAY HELLO ❤️

# THANK YOU

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Email is the best way to reach me at:

LBalzano@FCUSD.org.

You can alawys message me through Parent Square.