

Mr. Smith's

Third Grade Rockstars!

8.23.21

Welcome, Families!

First Impressions

Already at this point, there are just a very few of you that I have not had the opportunity to visit with on the phone. I have to say that this year's Third Graders are filled with high energy and are ready to make this a year of some incredible growth! This will happen through hard work and by working together. The "real world" out there is filled with people that ask questions and seek answers. This year, YOU will begin to learn how to take your education into your own hands and I will do all I can to help you get there!

Throughout this year, you will want to keep in close communication with me often. Here are the ways:

- WebMail
- Phone: 208-370-3628
- [YouCanBook.Me](#)

Our classroom Weebly website is a new addition for you this year. To get directly to our third grade page, [just click here](#). This page will grow/ develop over the year. The concept of this classroom Weebly page is to provide a one-stop-shop for resources, assignments, rubrics, LiveLesson recordings, etc. This is all designed to ensure success!

At this point, all Calendars, Schedulers, Planners, LiveLesson schedules, and the like should all be released, open, and available to all students. Should you find this inaccurate for you or your student, please let me know. This may be the case if you were added to my roster later. It's an easy fix!

"You're off to great places, today is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way! – Dr. Seuss



Renaissance Testing

Important:

All students are assigned Renaissance pre-tests to start the year. Through the Renaissance website, students will take benchmark tests (Star Math and Reading, or Star Early Literacy) over the coming weeks. These tests are used to help teachers prepare instruction for the school year. Students do not receive grades on these tests. In addition to benchmark tests administered next month, students will also take tests in January and at the end of the school year. Completion of these tests is required.

We will begin testing in earnest in mid-September. Please be on the lookout for a webmail with details regarding the testing schedule. Yesterday, I skipped the first Renaissance lesson for all students because I can provide better information about the test via webmail. **If the Renaissance pre-test lesson is still appearing on your to-do list or planner, you may mark it complete.**

LiveLesson Schedule and Assessments

Slow- Rollout for Year

You may have noticed that there are no LiveLessons scheduled for this week and that the Math Time to Talks begin the 3rd week of school for students. This is by design so that we can slowly ease into the school year together, field any questions/ troubleshoot tech issues, and give late-enrolling students time to get situated.

However, I WILL host an Open Office in [my LiveLesson room](#) every Monday and Friday this year beginning today- times posted on the calendar. Tuesday at 9am PT/ 10am MT and 1pm PT/ 2pm MT will be a LiveLesson Orientation/ meet-and-greet situation. You only need to attend one, so pick the one that best fits your schedule. On Wednesday, I WILL be holding my optional Social Hour at 10:30am PT/ 11:30am MT so that students can begin socializing and getting to know their classmates. I will also hold our Art class beginning Friday at 10am PT/ 11am MT.

The times you see on your calendar are correct to YOUR time zone. This means that as long as your time zone is set correct in Connexus/ Pearson Online Classroom, it will not matter that I am Pacific Time Zone if you are Mountain Time Zone. It will automatically schedule for you correctly.

You will find that my booking page is important this year. Please be sure your settings for using YouCanBook.Me are also correct in reflecting your time zone. If you don't check this, it often defaults to East Coast Time Zone and I will call you 3 hours before you are expecting. That's annoying for you and for me! You get to choose if you want a phone call or a LiveLesson one-on-one meeting. Whichever is best for you, but if the call is to help a student with school work, the LiveLesson option is best so that we can interact with the assignments and I can provide the best help!



Secrets of Success

- **Complete your Orientations**—Students and Learning Coaches
 - o *The Best Kept Secrets* are in these presentations. Refer back to them often the first month of school...and any other time during the year. (You can find them in the Virtual Library or in Learning Coach Central.)
- **Set up your study area**—Make it a special place where you do only school work. If a separate space is not possible, arrange your schedule so the space is only used for school during specific times of the day.
- **Daily attendance**—Consistency is important in learning.
- **Begin the first day of school or the day you have access to lessons**—if you have enrolled later—begin even if you do not have all of the books and materials! You have copies of the books online through the links in your lessons. If you get behind, it is hard to catch up. All workbook pages are available as PDFs.
- **Do all your assignments in order.** Complete Portfolios before going on to the next Unit. Don't put off portfolios! Portfolios are intended to take multiple days with instructions for different parts given throughout a unit. Do each part as you are instructed to do so.
- **Decide how you are going to use your Student Planner.** Learning Coaches can enter family outings and appointments and other events that will affect your schooling—monthly calls and LiveLessons.
- **Be available for required monthly phone calls.** You can schedule a set time or you can use You Can Book Me to find the best time for you!
- **Attend scheduled LiveLessons.**
- **Mark the STATE TESTING Dates on your Family Calendar when made available.** ISAT testing will happen in the spring. You will receive more information on this later.
- **ASK QUESTIONS!** If you are new to INSPIRE—it takes a few weeks to get adjusted to this new way of learning. If you are a returning family, it will take some time to adjust to the new curriculum and get back into your school routine. If you have questions—ask. If I don't know the answer, I will find out who does.
- **Clear curriculum modifications with your teacher.** Some families may need to have the curriculum modified for various reasons. Please work with me so that your student continues to meet Idaho Standards while meeting his/her unique needs.
- **School Support/Tech Support—800-382-6010.** You can always call Connections Academy with questions—especially if they are computer or equipment related. I will direct you to these numbers if you are having issues with the materials CA sent.