

# Welcome to 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values®.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our **Big 3**:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

## 2023-2024 Big Ideas

**August / CREATIVITY:** Using your imagination to do something new

**September / FRIENDSHIP:** Using your words and actions to show others you care

**October / INTEGRITY:** Choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do

**November / GRATITUDE:** Letting others know you see how they've helped you

**December / GENEROSITY:** Making someone's day by giving something away

**January / RESPONSIBILITY:** Proving you can be trusted with what is expected of you

**February / KINDNESS:** Showing others they are valuable by how you treat them

**March / PEACE:** Proving you care more about each other than winning an argument

**April / PATIENCE:** Waiting until later for what you want now

**May / COMMITMENT:** Making a plan and putting it into practice

# It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of art projects, crumpled writing assignments, and worn-down crayons. After that, your child will be a fourth grader and you'll never know them as a third grader again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it.

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project ® about third graders:

## Third Graders...

- ...live in a highly definitive world – fairness, right and wrong, good and bad are clearly defined.
- ...are keen for comparison (movies, sports teams, ice cream flavors).
- ...are developing their ability to empathize, but they are still quick to put people (including themselves) into categories.
- ...still focus on one thing at a time and may struggle with abstract concepts.
- ...are motivated by fun.
- ...still benefit from 10-11 hours of sleep each night.
- ...enjoy cooperative group activities.
- ...are beginning to respond to peer pressure.
- ...can be enthusiastic, energetic, and also impatient.
- ... need encouragement, support, and unwavering love in order to set a positive tone for future and life-long learning.