

STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH THIRD GRADE QUICK START GUIDE

Welcome Students and Parents

Mission

Never Stop Innovating

Vision

We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.

Formula for Character

Honesty, Integrity, Empathy, Respect, Responsibility

Third Grade Team

Ms. Mau, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Daniels, and Mr. Thatcher

Instructional Assistant (Ms. Schindler)

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a Full Time Instructional Assistant dedicated to 3rd grade. Having an Instructional Assistant in the classroom provides additional support for both students and their teachers each and every day.

Instructional Assistants work either in small groups or one-on-one to offer support as needed. Our assistants are extremely valued and we expect that they are respected as any other adult on campus.

Subjects Taught (Links to the standards)

[Science and Engineering](#)

[Math](#)

[Language Arts](#)

[Social Studies](#)

Specials Rotations

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education and Chinese language and culture. The Specials classes rotate each week every 2 weeks.

Snacks

Snacks are encouraged during recess. Students will have a designated time to enjoy snacks during a recess break.

Recess and Lunch

Weather permitting, students will have the opportunity to enjoy (2) outdoor recess times. There will be both a morning “snack” recess and a recess after lunch. The first snack recess may be used as a study hall if a student has assignments to catch up on, or wishes to complete a project or study for an assessment. These recesses will be approximately 15-20 minutes long. Students will have an opportunity to get some fresh air and enjoy their snack before getting in some outdoor play time or they may have their snack in study hall where they will work on missing work or assessment retakes. Students are welcome to play on the playground or to play various games on the black top including but not limited to hockey, soccer, and basketball.

Lunch Numbers

When ordering a hot lunch from Nutrition Services, your student will be required to enter a six digit “lunch number” into a typical 10-key number pad. This “lunch number” is in fact your student's DCSD (Douglas County School District) student ID number. This number will follow your student to any school they attend within DCSD.

Cafeteria Expectations

The students enter the cafeteria in the Hot Lunch line or find their designated seat to eat their cold lunch and have 20 minutes to eat. Each table has a “Hopper Pass” for leaving the table to get water or condiments and only one student per table can be up at once. They are expected to chat in an inside voice as the cafeteria gets loud quickly. We ask that the students' primary focus be on eating rather than socializing as lunch time is limited and we want each student to get the nutrition they need to learn.

A five minute warning is given before teachers are due to pick up the students so they can finish their lunch and clean up. They understand the expectation to clear their places, recycle milk cartons, water bottles, or cans and put their trays by the sink and pick up any trash off of the floor. Students are not allowed to wash the tables, but are expected to clean all items from the table areas.

Field Trips (depending on current Covid protocols)

Along with the academic experience, third grade students are also provided with many off-campus opportunities to extend classroom learning. Past trips have included:

Confluence Park : The students have the opportunity to learn about history, nature, and people of the past.

Carson Nature Center : Students have the opportunity to interact with the environment, learn about ecology concepts, and learn about life under water.

CU South University : Students have the opportunity to study animal characteristics and explore different survival in environments.

Skate City : Students have the opportunity to learn about forces and motion in their day to day life and gain new experiences.

Wings over the Rockies : Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, based opportunity to study the work of scientists and engineers in the field of aviation.

Water Bottles (Students are required to bring a water bottle daily during Covid)

We encourage students to carry water in leak proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles should be clearly labeled with the student's name.

School Supplies

In the fall, prior to the beginning of the school year, parents will receive a school supply list. Additional items needed include a backpack, water bottle, and comfortable shoes, as the students do go outside for both morning snack and lunch recess.

Use of Technology

Technology will be utilized in the classroom on a daily basis. Technology will be used in many ways such as teaching coding and research activities with the assistance of the classroom teacher and instructional assistants. It will also be used to facilitate independent and small group activities or lessons throughout the day. Students will be instructed on proper use and care of our school technology resources. Basic understanding of how to use apps and navigate websites will help your student in using technology in the classroom and getting the most of this valuable classroom resource. All students will be assigned a Chromebook that will stay at school for them to use. Students are also allowed to bring in a 5G compatible device from home, but this is not required. Students will use Canvas and Google applications to complete assignments and take tests. Students will be expected to use their Chromebooks **only** for educational purposes as well as take care of them and be respectful when posting comments on their classroom site.

Birthday Celebrations

We love to celebrate your students' birthday at STEM, but also value instructional time. Birthdays will be shared on the morning announcements and they are given a birthday pencil. With advance notice to the classroom teacher, your child also may bring in a store bought edible, preferably healthy treat or goodie bag to share with the class. However, this is not required. Please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher to find out about any dietary or allergy concerns.

Volunteering (depending on current Covid protocols)

Volunteering in the classroom and on field trips is a great way to help the teacher and to be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. There are limited opportunities to volunteer so please remember to allow other parents to sign up as well. Many times, your student's teacher will plan a special activity for you to do with the class during your scheduled volunteer time. If for some reason you cannot make it for a scheduled volunteer time, please remember to be courteous and give the classroom teacher sufficient notice. This will ensure that they may have time to prepare an alternate lesson for the class.

Third Grade Spartans!

Yes we are!

We look forward to a great year in Third Grade!