

## STEM SCHOOL HIGHLANDS RANCH THIRD GRADE QUICK START PARENT GUIDE

### **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

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### **Third Grade Team**

Mrs. Mau, Mrs. Jackson, Ms. Rose, and Ms. Russell

### **Daily Schedule**

The third grade classes start at 7:40am with morning announcements followed by the Classroom Meeting/Community Time. Students arriving after 7:40 are marked tardy.

7:30am-7:40am	Soft Start
7:40am-8:10am	Classroom Meeting/Community Time
8:10am-9:20am	Math
9:20am-10:20am	Reading
10:20 am-10:40 am	Snack Recess
10:40 am - 11:20	Phonics/Grammar
11:20pm-1:2:10pm	Specials
12:10pm - 12:35pm	Writing
12:35 pm - 1:20 pm	Lunch/Recess

1:20 pm - 2:30 pm	Science/Social Studies
2:35	Dismissal

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## PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

### Clothing

Other than the standard dress code for STEM, there are some broader suggestions for school clothing for your rising third grader. The playground is equipped with monkey bars, rock wall, climbing ladders, and slides all on a mulch area surrounded by black top and artificial turf. Although there is no requirement for closed toed shoes in the dress code, it may not be safe for students to wear flip flop sandals or open toed shoes while enjoying the playground and its equipment. Please make sure that your student has appropriate outerwear for the day's weather. During winter months, warm coats, gloves, hats and boots will be necessary to enjoy their recesses outdoors. When there is snow on the ground, students will not be allowed to walk in snowy areas without wearing snow boots. Please write your student's name on all jackets, gloves, hats, and other clothing items that your student may take off during the school day.

### Supplies Required

The third grade school supply list will be posted in July. In addition, the students will need a backpack and water bottle.

### Water Bottles

Students must carry water in leak-proof bottles in order to stay hydrated. All water bottles need to be clearly labeled in order to stay out of the ever-growing Lost and Found.

### Lunch

Your student may bring a packed lunch from home or choose to have a hot lunch provided by Douglas County Nutrition Services. School lunch includes a fruit, vegetable, main dish, and milk. Please make sure your child has an appropriate amount of food to be consumed in the allotted time for lunch, as well as any and all utensils your student will need to consume their lunch, ie., spoons, forks, and/or napkins.

Students may bring food to be warmed up in the microwaves by an aide or instructional assistant. They are also available to assist your student with opening their lunch items. Please keep in mind, there are likely 100 students dining in the cafeteria, and the lunch period lasts approximately 20 minutes. If your student needs assistance with heating up food, opening lunch items, and getting utensils, etc., it greatly cuts into the time they are allotted for consuming their lunch. Please keep this in mind when packing your students lunch. Emphasis should be made in getting your student to be able to independently open lunch boxes, food containers, and beverages. Please write your child's name on tupperware, lunchbox, and other reusable items.

### **Lunch Numbers**

Each student is assigned a DCSD identification number that stays with them throughout their DCSD career. This number is used at lunch time to access their lunch account funds and must be memorized to keep the lunch line moving at a steady pace. Instructional assistants and aides are also available to assist your student with entering their lunch numbers, however, emphasis should be made to have your student be able to complete this task independently.

### **Snacks**

Snack breaks are included throughout the day. Please plan on only sending 1-2 healthy snacks with your student each day. Please do not send snacks with tree nuts in case of allergies.

### **Recess**

Students have this free time to talk with their friends and play on the elementary playground. All students are expected to have weather appropriate clothing as we only stay inside for recess if the weather is unusually harsh.

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## **ACADEMICS**

### **Specials Rotations**

Students at STEM are given the opportunity to engage in learning Music, Art, Physical Education, and Computer Information and Technology. These special classes will be on a rotating schedule.

### **Problem-Based Learning Units**

At STEM, our students work in groups to investigate real world problems. Students receive direct instruction on state standards to guide them through the problem solving process. These units are slightly modified every year. Students may investigate:

- Threats to Colorado wildlife
- Hazards caused by severe weather on communities and structures
- Challenges that arise when starting and running a local business

### **Use of Technology**

Each student is issued a Chromebook for classroom instruction. Chromebooks will be kept at school. Students will be instructed on proper use and care of our school technology resources. Basic understanding of using any technical applications and navigating websites will help your student in using technology in the classroom and getting the most of this valuable resource. If we have inclement weather, the school may call for a virtual school day. The students will need access to a computer or iPad at home in order to access the lessons and assignments for the day.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are a great hands-on learning experience for your student. This provides some of the best school memories and gives students the opportunity to explore and reinforce lessons outside of the classroom. Students will be transported on buses to/from these trips. Parents will have an opportunity to sign up as a volunteer for field trips. Teachers will create an online sign up and volunteers will be chosen on a first come first serve basis. Students will be required to bring their own disposable sack lunch and a disposable water bottle.

Typical Field trips:

- **Carson Nature Center:** Students have the opportunity to interact with the environment, learn about ecology concepts, and discover about life under water.
- **Skate City:** Students have the opportunity to learn about forces and motion in their day to day life and gain new experiences.

- **Golden History Museum:** Students will visit different stations to learn about early Colorado life.
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## OTHER

### **Instructional Assistants**

STEM School Highlands Ranch is proud to provide a full time instructional aide that is dedicated to our grade level. The instructional assistant 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.

### **Birthday Celebrations**

We love to celebrate your student's birthday with the whole class. With advance notice to the classroom teacher, you may bring in a store-bought, edible treat, or goodie bag to share with the class; however, this is not a requirement. All food must be free of tree-nuts.

### **Phones and iPods**

Students may not use phones during the school day. We ask that any and all communication from the parent or student go through the teacher and the school phones. If there is an emergency, illness, or other need to call home, the office will communicate directly with parent/guardian(s). Elementary students will not be allowed to use their phones/ipods at any time during the school day, including during clubs and after school activities/driveline, and should leave these devices at home. It is important that every STEM Spartan elementary student meets this expectation in order to avoid a domino effect of phone use.

### **Student Emails**

Each student has an email address first.last@s.stemk12.org. This email address should be used for educational purposes only (communicating about group work, emailing a teacher, receiving student newsletters, etc.). Students should not be using this email address for personal communication or to communicate to parent/guardian(s) during the school day.

Students are expected to use appropriate language and email etiquette when sending emails within the STEM network. This email address will be used to log in to Google Drive, school subscriptions, and other educational websites. This email should not be used to sign up for other non-academic subscriptions.

### **Library**

The STEM library consists of white book shelves around the elementary hallways with books divided by age appropriate reading levels. This system ensures books are readily available for students to use. The students are asked to place finished books in the provided baskets. Individual classrooms also have a collection of books for students to use while in school.

### **Volunteering**

Volunteering in the classroom is a great way to help the teacher and be involved and informed of what your student is learning in the classroom. If interested, please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

**Third Grade Spartans!**

**Yes we are!**

We are looking forward to a great year with you.