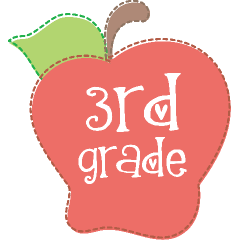
***WELCOME***

***TO***

***THIRD GRADE!!!***

*SISTER NADIA*

*Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem*

September 4th, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Assalamu Alaikum!

I hope this letter finds you and your family in great health and Imaan, inshallah. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the third grade! We hope that you and your family had a relaxing summer break and are ready to begin an exciting year at MDQ Academy.

My name is Nadia Riaz and this is my 3rd year teaching 3rd grade at MDQ Academy. I graduated with my Bachelor’s in Health Science from Stony Brook University and received my Masters in Teaching from Fordham University. I am NYS certified in Early Childhood and Childhood Education. I am excited about having your child in my class and I hope that he/she will have a successful learning experience this year. I understand that teaching your child is a privilege, as well as a tremendous responsibility and I will do my best this year, inshallah, to ensure that each student has a motivating and safe learning experience in the classroom.

Your child will encounter many new things in third grade.  We will work together while learning about communities, geography, and economics.  We will investigate plant growth, changes in matter, and rocks and minerals in our science units.  In math, we will embark on a voyage of learning about new topics and new ways of thinking.  We will explore many different genres as we learn about ourselves as readers and writers.

I would like to start the year by becoming partners with you in your child’s education.  You can help begin this partnership by taking a few moments to describe your child.  How do you see your child as a learner and as a person? What are your child’s interests? What are some goals you have for your child for third grade? What important things should your child’s teacher know to help him or her have a successful school experience?  Please jot down these ideas and send them to me at [nriaz@mdqacademy.org](mailto:nriaz@mdqacademy.org) or [nriaz2@yahoo.com](mailto:nriaz2@yahoo.com).

          We look forward to working together to create a positive and productive school year. Inshallah! ☺

Sincerely,

Nadia Riaz

3rd Grade Class Guide

**Correspondence**

Feel free to call me or make an appointment to meet me before or after school. Also, you may find it convenient to contact me at [nriaz@mdqacademy.org](mailto:nriaz@mdqacademy.org) or [nriaz2@yahoo.com](mailto:nriaz2@yahoo.com). You may also call the school at 631-665-5036.

I will be sending reminders and announcements during the year through remind101. Please sign up by texting @msria to (347) 318-0698.

The classroom webpage is [www.thirdgradecharmers.weebly.com](http://www.thirdgradecharmers.weebly.com). The purpose of this site is to foster communication between home and school. My hope is that you will find our class website to be helpful and informative. It will be updated on a regular basis with homework assignments, photos, class activities, announcements, etc, so please feel free to visit often.

**Conferences**

Conferences are scheduled to take place twice throughout the year. You may schedule a conference anytime during the school year if you have any concerns. I may also request to see you if your child is having difficulty in her/her behavior or in a subject area.

**Behavior Management**

You may be hearing a lot about green “Good Behavior” cards from your child soon. It is part of a system that helps students take responsibility for their own behavior in the classroom.

Here’s how it works: As a class, we will create a list of rules for behavior. Then we will set up a chart to track each student’s success. Everyone begins each day with green “Good Behavior” cards in their pockets on the chart. Students who forget to follow the rules must replace their green cards with yellow, orange or red cards.

* A green card means “You’re doing great!”
* A yellow card means “Warning! Pay more attention to your behavior!”
* An orange card means “You have a consequence.” (For example, a time-out, losing a privilege, such as time deducted from recess)
* A red card means this action will be taken: Call or letter sent to Parents.

If a student continues with a certain behavior, I will request a student/teacher conference and will send a referral to the principal’s office.

On every Friday, your child will bring home a behavior report. Take a few moments to review the report with your child. Be sure to praise all the “green” days – these mean your child followed every rule, all day long! Your praise will encourage your child to work toward even more green days in the future. Then, sign the report and return to me.

In addition to the behavioral chart, students will earn additional points for good behavior and lose points for bad behavior through a website named [www.classdojo.com](http://www.classdojo.com). A code will be given to each student where they may develop their own avators on Class Dojo. Parents may access the website to see their child’s progress. At the end of each month, the students will receive prizes according to the amount of points they have accumulated.

There will also be a class incentive for positive behavior. If the class shows good behavior as a whole, a marble will be added to a jar. When the jar is filled, they will be given a chance to participate in a fun class activity. The marbles will be counted regularly as a math activity.

Thank you for your support!

**Absences**

If your child is absent, he/she must bring a written excuse with them upon his/her return to school.

**Homework**

Homework will be assigned on a daily basis. Students are expected to come to class everyday with the assigned homework completed. Responsibility for completing homework assignments on time is crucial to each student’s homework grade. Students (not parents) are to do the homework, even if they make many mistakes. Parents are to see that their child had completed their homework, but not correct it. Completed homework allows for me to see how well they have grasped the concept. Homework helps students review and practice learned skills, prepare for upcoming lessons, deepen understanding of topics we are studying, research a project, and/or finish certain assignments.  Homework is not new material or exploration of concepts that the students have not seen before.

Homework serves a variety of purposes which include but are not limited to the following

1. To improve and reinforce basic skills through additional practice

2. To provide review and practice of skills learned in class

3. To increase knowledge and understanding of content and concepts introduced in class

4. To prepare for classroom instruction

5. To improve self-discipline and independent work habits

6. To nurture and reinforce good study skills

7. To enhance home/school communication

If an unusual circumstance prevents your child from doing the homework (sickness, injury, or other serious problems), please send a note with your child, so that he/she can be excused for not doing the homework.

The school provides every student with a planner. This planner is for them to record the assignments that are due the next day, and is also a way of teaching students organizational skills. It is every student’s responsibility to record homework from the homework board on a daily basis. Students must have this planner in school every day, if not I will deduct points for being unprepared.

**Friday Folders**

Each Friday, your child will bring home a Friday Folder containing completed work.  It will contain homework and class work that was submitted and checked.  Please take time each weekend to review the work and discuss what your child has been working on in school.  This is an excellent opportunity for you to get caught up on all the latest learning that is going on in class each day.  If you do not see much work come home, it may be a sign that some home or class assignments are incomplete or were not turned in.  This is also an excellent way to stay on top of your child’s organization and homework planning. If you have questions or concerns about work you see in the Friday Folder, please write an email to your child's teacher.  Thanks for your support!

**Reading Logs**

Reading logs will be sent home every Monday and are returned the following Monday. Each weekly total should consist of at least 110 minutes. This averages to about 15 minutes per day. The logs should be signed by a parents/guardian and the total number of minutes at the bottom. This will count as reading homework each week. At the end of each month, the student who has read the most will receive a certification of reading excellence.

**Grading Policy**

Each subject will be graded based on five categories. Each category will have its own weight and percentage in respect to the overall grade. The breakdown of the categories and its relative weight is as follows:

Tests: 40%

Quizzes: 20%

Classwork: 10%

Homework: 10%

Projects: 10%

Behavior: 5%

Attendance: 5%

You can view your child’s progress throughout the year by logging onto [www.orbund.com](http://www.orbund.com). Log in information has been mailed to each parent/student. It is also available in the front office upon request.

**Tests and Quizzes:**

Your child will be assessed at the closing of each subject chapter or unit. Students will be notified at least a week in advance for tests and will be well prepared ahead of time for each exam. Every Friday, students will be given a spelling quiz as well as a grammar quiz on the topic that was covered during the week. It is your child’s responsibility to review materials in class everyday – students must be prepared for a **POP** quiz at any time.

**Progress Reports**

Progress Reports will generally be sent home once at the end of each month. They must be signed and returned the following day. These reports keep parents up-to-date on their student’s work and will address any concerns the teachers or parents might have.

**Student Performance**

It is important to keep track of every student’s performance throughout the year. To do so I keep a portfolio in class for each student. This portfolio includes all quizzes, tests and special assignments that will be given throughout this year. If at any time you would like to view this portfolio please contact me so we can arrange a time to do so.

**NYS Assessment Tests**

Third graders are required to take two NYS assessments this academic year. The assessments are Mathematics and ELA (English Language Arts) and are aligned with the common core standards. The exams will be administered during the second half of the year, but we will be preparing for these exams during the year in order to strive for the best, inshallah.