Welcome to 3rd Grade!

Mr. Liner’s Introduction

School is upon us! I am so excited to be returning to the Queen Anne Community and see so many familiar faces and consider myself lucky to have such a great community of support as I enter my second year of teaching. After graduating from Seattle University's Masters in Teaching program in 2011, I returned to the child care setting to become the program coordinator for Kid's Co at Queen Anne Elementary, where I grew to love the staff, students, and families that make up this wonderful school. The opportunity arose to teach Kindergarten in the Renton School District the following year as I worked to further apply my education and passion within my own classroom. This past year’s journey in third grade here at Queen Anne was so rewarding and I am excited for this upcoming year with so many familiar faces! I look forward to reconnecting with the many names and families I recognize and for those who have not met me, I can't wait to get to know everyone this coming fall! Relationships create the foundation of teaching as I hope to empower my students to make goals, achieve feelings of success both academically and socially, and create a culture of curious and civic minded learners through creative expression and meaningful application of skills.

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Philosophy and Goals

Social, emotional and academic learning are mutually inclusive. As a team, we will work to educate *The Whole Child.*

*Social & Emotional Learning*

The foundation of our classroom is built with relationships. Strong relationships are the key to pave the way for groundbreaking moments in our classroom. Our school teaches social and emotional skills (SE) using the Positive Discipline and Zones of Regulation program. We will hold regular classroom meetings to explicitly teach SE skills and to discuss and solve challenges that arise in our classroom community.

To learn more about Positive Discipline, visit:

[*http://www.positivediscipline.com/what-is-positive-discipline.html*](http://www.positivediscipline.com/what-is-positive-discipline.html)

*Academic Learning*

The work we will do this year will be dynamic, engaging, and focused. Students will access learning through a variety of instructional approaches. We will be incorporating Project Based-Learning (PBL) and technology with our existing grade-level standards and curriculum to work on innovative 21st Century learning. Our mission is to guide students as they meet and exceed standards and develop a lifelong love of learning. We approach each day with this goal in mind and through engaging and intentional work!

I Commit To:

* Establishing a strong and close-knit relationship with your child and your family maintained through close communication
* Modeling and encouraging a love of lifelong learning each day!
* Facilitating an education that enables your child to meet or exceed third grade standards with a strong depth of understanding and constant opportunities for higher order thinking and connection making
* Ensuring that your child experiences success and celebrates their accomplishments
* Providing your child with a vivid and engaging learning environment infused with technology and 21st Century learning!

**QAE Pillars**We are self-directed learners  
We encourage each other to think critically and learn more  
We are concerned, confident and compassionate citizens of the world  
We learn everywhere, we learn together  
We are creative

1. *An in-depth look at our curriculum and procedures for this year will be presented on Curriculum Night. Until then, here is important introductory information!*

**Our First Days**

Our first days together will be spent getting to know each other, building a classroom family, learning about our plans for the year, and establishing routines and procedures. Assessments will begin to get a sense of where students are starting the year and introductory lessons will begin on the very first day! We will have fun with some entry activities and even create individual third grade time capsules that we will seal and then reopen at the end of the year to see how much we have grown! Students will begin to set up two portfolios: the first a digital eFolio through Weebly, the second a physical binder. Students will learn how to keep organized portfolios and will maintain them throughout the year to showcase and collect evidence of their learning!

**Communication**

Our tool for communication will be our classroom website. The URL for our website is: <http://qaeliner2014.weebly.com>. Rather than sending home a paper newsletters and reminders, we will blog about what is going on in our classroom. There will be an RSS feed you can subscribe to that will send blogs directly to your email inbox! Please subscribe to this blog immediately (a subscription box appears on the right hand side of the home page. Check the website frequently (at least once a week!) as it will evolve and showcase the incredible learning going on. *I encourage you to use the commenting tool to respond to this blog! It is great to hear feedback, share questions that arise, and to build our community.*

\*Please keep in mind that emails sent during school hours may not be read until that evening (we are busy learning!) - Please leave important messages with Mrs. Kirch in the front office.

\*Live, in person conversations are *always* the best form of communication and often the most powerful and efficient. Please feel free to make an appointment with me anytime!

**Back and Fourth Items**

Your child will bring 4 items back and fourth each day.

1.Orange QAE Folder

2. Writers Notebook

3. Reading Notebook

4. Book Bag

*The Reading Notebook will be sent home later this week.*

***These items should be brought to and from school every day.*** They are valuable tools for communication and for extending our learning to your home throughout the year. You will be asked to check your child's orange folder each night for any notes, assignments, or schoolwork to share! If you need to send something (notes, permission slips, homework, checks) please use this folder.

In third grade, **students** are responsible to turn in any important documents from their folders! There is a “box” in the classroom where they are responsible to submit these important documents. Developing the habit of carrying these items to and from school each day is important and will help build important habits for upper grade levels. Please help them build this routine successfully starting the first day! Our best tips are to put all items in backpacks before going to bed and to keep backpacks in the same place each day. Students last year stuck sticky note reminders on their bathroom mirrors until it became an automatic habit. ☺

**Snack**

Third graders get hungry before our late lunch! Please pack a snack (brain fuel) for your child each day that is **quick**, **easy to eat**, and that will fuel their bodies! We see a noticeable difference in classroom climate when morning snacks are **protein & carb** based rather than sugary! Also, I am going to ask that **we refrain from bringing nuts (tree nuts especially) into the classroom for our snacks due to an allergy concern**. We will have a 5 minute snack each day. If your child is a hot lunch eater, or, packing a snack won’t work-let me know! We will keep a supply of extra snack on hand.

**Volunteering**

We greatly value parents, guardians and extended family members and encourage involvement! We look forward to having you volunteer with us! *We will spend the first couple weeks building our classroom environment and invite you to begin volunteering after Curriculum Night!* I will explain our volunteering needs and you will have the chance to sign up. We will communicate with you if we feel we need support right away; special projects may very well arise before then! Volunteers are required to attend positive discipline training before they volunteer in the classroom as it is important we communicate with and approach guiding students with the same goals in mind. There will be both “internal and external” volunteer jobs available!

**Homework**

We will discuss our homework philosophy expectations for the year in detail at Curriculum Night. For the first half-week, students will begin practicing and developing the habit of bringing their 4 take home items back and fourth to school (Note-it may start with just **one** item ☺). During the first full week we will begin a homework reading routine. I will alert you once we get to this place and what will be expected of students.

**Supplies**

Instead of purchasing supplies from a list, we ask each family to submit $50 per student to cover materials needed.  We will purchase *exactly* what we need throughout the year and be reimbursed by this fund! If $50 is not feasible right now for your family, please give what you can! If you can give more to support other students-great! The only thing your child will need for school supplies will be a backpack and the two special requests outlined below! Thanks in advance for being prompt with whatever supply funds you can give at this time. We spend our personal funds and wait for these funds for reimbursement!

\*Checks can be made out to QAE and sent in orange folders. If you have more than one child at QAE, please give a separate payment to each teacher to make our bookkeeping a snap!

Special Request Supplies:

1. **One pair of Ear Buds**: A lot of us have multiple, tangled ear buds in our homes! Please send in a special pair that will be used as your child’s own special headphones. We will tag them and kids will keep them in their drawers for quick access to use with computers and iPads.
2. **Special Book Bag**: Students will need a book bag to carry their books back and fourth. I do have some smaller fabric bags that students can personalize with markers (they aren’t the most durable-but they will work for a while!). If you have a special bag that your child would like to use please send it in! I have a special bag I bought at a NY bookstore with dogs all over it ☺ Canvas is a great option and this personalization makes carrying books back and fourth all the more meaningful.

*Please review the online QAE Student-Parent Handbook for more great information:*

[*http://www.queenanneelementary.com/student--parent-handbook.html*](http://www.queenanneelementary.com/student--parent-handbook.html)

**What a fabulous year we will have together!**

**Welcome to third grade.**

**-Megan Klope, Room 304/ meklope@seattleschools.org/202-252-2505**

*To Do List:*

* *Subscribe to our Classroom Blog*
* *Send in $50 supply money*
* *Send in earbud headphones*
* *Return completed school paperwork*
* *Return student information sheet*
* *Revive your nightly reading habit*
* *Bug your kid to tell you all about our first days ☺*

*We will gladly take any donations you have throughout the year!*

* *Tissue Boxes*
* ***Disinfecting Wipes***
* *Extra Snack*
* *Hand Sanitizer (we much prefer hot water and soap-but this will help on the fly!)*
* ***Ticonderoga Pencils*** *(they are the best and far outlast the others!)*