It is my pleasure to be your son/daughter’s teacher this year. My goal is to help your child achieve their full potential socially, emotionally, and academically within an environment that fosters mutual respect, risk-taking, and responsibility. I hope this school year will be an exciting and rewarding learning experience for your child. The following is a summary of 3rd grade classroom expectations, homework procedures, grading system, curriculum, and some general guidelines for parents and students.

**Classroom Agreements**

COJOWA has adopted a school wide behavior program this year called REACHES (Responsibility, Empathy, Assertion, Cooperation, Honesty, Excellence, and Self Control). During the first week of school, 3B students brainstormed a list of things they needed in order to be successful in our classroom that incorporated REACHES. They decided on the following classroom expectations:

1. RESPONSIBILITY: Be responsible for school materials
2. EMPATHY: Putting yourself in the other person’s shoes
3. ASSERTION: Stand up for what is right
4. COOPERATION: Work well with others
5. HONESTY: Tell the truth
6. EXCELLENCE: Do your best
7. SELF CONTROL: Make good choices

**Reinforcing Expectations**

Students are expected to follow the REACHES agreements at all times. In the 3rd grade, students can earn and be fined money for their work ethics and behavior. The ‘Star Behavior Chart’ will be used when a student is or is not following our agreements:

Superstar- Note home to family explaining the excellent job they did and $50! 
Bright Star- Great job on their overall behavior and work ethics and $10! 
Shining Star- Good job on their overall behavior and work ethics! Keep up the good work!
Dimming Star- Work harder on having appropriate behavior and work ethics throughout the entire day and owe $10.
Falling Star- Note home to family explaining their inappropriate overall behavior and work ethics and owe $50.
Students will be sent to Mr. Glab immediately if the incident is serious and with a Discipline Referral form.

Recognition
Every week I will award a student a Student of the Week award for demonstrating positive behavior, academic improvement/excellence, or consistent effort.

Positive feedback, earned money, and verbal praise are frequently given to students who are on task, following class expectations and demonstrating effort, positive attitudes and acts of kindness.

Homework
Students will be assigned homework daily in both reading and math. Each day, students are required to read 20 minutes and then fill out the HRP form. Students also have 1 math handout per night. In addition, students will have homework to develop vocabulary, practice grammar, learn spelling patterns, and finish incomplete classwork.

Homework is checked daily. If a student does not complete the homework, they will stay in at recess to complete it, or they will have to complete it as extra homework.

I encourage students to read during the weekend as well. Occasionally there will be projects to complete during the weekends.

Please read and sign/initial your child's agenda everyday.

Home Reading Program (HRP)
Students need to read a minimum of 80 minutes a week in a book that is at their independent reading level. Students who read 100 or more minutes a week will earn a Top Reader Coupon. Five (5) Top Reader Coupons equal a Free Homework Coupon!

Every month, the students who complete their weekly HRP assignments will get to see a movie in English.

In May, we will be having CAMP READ for all of the students who did their HRP every week throughout the school year!

Attendance
Good attendance is essential to children’s success in school. It is important to be in school everyday. While make up work can be given when a student returns after an absence, it can never make up for a day of missed school.
If a student is sick, it is understandable to keep him/her home to get better. However, families should schedule vacations during school breaks. Routine visits to doctors should be scheduled after school or during breaks whenever possible.

**Snack and Lunch**
Eating healthy food is important for academic performance. For this reason, it is very important that your child come to school each day with a healthy snack or lunch. If they are buying snack, please discuss with them the importance of eating good foods. Chips and cookies are NOT going to help them focus during the day.

### Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUE</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THU</th>
<th>FRI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:30-8:20</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:20-9:10</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Snack</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9:10-9:25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9:25-9:45</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>ART</td>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>MUSIC</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:35-10:35</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>SCIENCE/SOC ST</td>
<td>MATH</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>11:25-11:45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Recess</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>11:45-12:05</td>
<td>PE</td>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>LIBRARY</td>
<td>SCIENCE/SOC ST</td>
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<td>12:05-12:55</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>DRAMA</td>
<td>SCIENCE/SOC ST</td>
<td>SPANISH</td>
<td>TECH</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12:55-13:45</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>SCIENCE/SOC ST</td>
<td>SCIENCE/SOC ST</td>
<td>RELIGION</td>
<td>FUN FRIDAY</td>
</tr>
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**Communication with Parents**
Working collaboratively with parents is very important. I welcome questions, concerns, or suggestions anytime. Please feel free to communicate with me via email or the agenda. My preferred mode of communication is via email as it is quick and direct. If you send me an email, I will respond to your email within 24 hours unless it is during the weekend or a holiday. My email address is kathy.kerrigan@cojowa.edu.co

Marked work will be sent home when graded. Please make sure you look at your child’s work and celebrate their successes and note where they may be having difficulty.

**Evaluation Procedures**
Students will be evaluated weekly in the areas of reading, writing, word knowledge, math, social studies, or science. Students will be assessed through in-class assignments such as tests, reader’s responses, and participation. Students will be graded both with rubrics and based on percent correct. Grades will be readily available on Phidias.

**COJOWA Elementary Grading**
A variety of assessments and methods will be used to evaluate students throughout the year in all subject areas. Students will be graded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric Scales 4</th>
<th>Qualitative Description</th>
<th>Quantitative Description 100 points</th>
<th>Points for Average (GPA)</th>
<th>Colombian System Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>100 - 98</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>The student excels in demonstrating mastery of the standards, exceeding the required expectations.</td>
<td>97 - 94</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>Superior Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93 - 90</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89 - 87</td>
<td>8.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>The student demonstrates satisfactory achievement of the</td>
<td>86 - 84</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>High Performance</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
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<td>Score Range</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83 - 80</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79 - 77</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76 - 74</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Basic Performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73 - 70</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>69 - 0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>Low Performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CURRICULUM**

The curriculum will cover Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and Values. The goal is to accomplish standards through whole class, small group, and independent work.

**Language Arts**

**Reader’s Workshop**

Students will learn comprehension, fluency, and accuracy skills and strategies through whole class read aloud stories, guided reading, shared reading, and independent reading. A variety of texts and genres will be introduced throughout the year. Reading conferences and assessments will be conducted frequently to determine each student’s level. Some of the reading comprehension strategies that we will focus on are:

- Checking for Understanding
- Asking Questions
- Visualizing
- Making Connections
- Inferences
- Determining Importance
- Synthesizing

**Writer’s Workshop**

Students will learn to follow the writing process (pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, publishing) and use the 6 Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency, conventions). The different genres taught in 3rd grade are:
Word Study
Word study is a learner–centered, conceptual approach to instruction in phonics, spelling, word recognition and vocabulary that allows students to develop their reading and writing skills across all areas of the curriculum through active exploration. Students will engage in word sort activities to learn various word patterns. High frequency words will be introduced each week and students will collect “Fabulous Words”. Students will have weekly leveled spelling assessments taken from the program Daily Language Instruction.

Cursive
Students will learn and practice writing in cursive this year.

Math
We will be using a comprehensive math program called Everyday Math. This is a research-based, spiral curriculum that allows students to be exposed to math concepts multiple times throughout the year. The units of study will be:

- Adding and Subtracting Whole Numbers
- Linear Measures and Area
- Multiplication and Division
- Place Value in Whole Numbers and Decimals
- Geometry
- Fractions
- Measurement and Data
- Probability

Social Studies and Science
Social Studies and Science will alternate throughout the year. The class will begin the year with a Social Studies unit that will be followed by a Science unit.

The theme for Social Studies for the year will be Social Studies Alive: Our Communities and Beyond. Students will study units on:

- How Communities Govern
- People who Make up our Communities
- Mapping Our Communities

The Science units will be:

- Nature of Science- Investigating Questions
- Life Sciences- Plants and Animals
- Earth and Space Science- Changes to Earth’s Surface
- Physical Science- Simple and Compound Machines

**Values:** The Elementary school at COJOWA also uses the values program called Second Step.

**Resources:**
**Math:** Everyday Mathematics Student Reference Book, Everyday Mathematics Student Journal 1 and 2, Everyday Mathematics Math Masters
**English:** Words Their Way, Scholastic Children’s Dictionary, Cursive Writing booklet, classroom library books
**Social Studies:** Social Studies Alive
**Science:** Science Fusion, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt