**Explanation of Reading Curriculum**

Dear Parent,

 As you may already be aware of, the transition from 2nd to 3rd grade can be challenging at times, due to the need for all students to become more independent learners as well as an increased rigor from the curriculum. What I am attempting to do here is explain how to best prepare your child for success within the reading curriculum throughout this school year.

**At Home**

 Please have your child read AT LEAST 20 MINUTES EVERY NIGHT at home. Although this is vital for your child’s success throughout the year, establishing this routine early in the school year will increase their chances of classroom success from start to finish. In third grade, the students will be publishing more detailed writing pieces on their own, so I highly encourage that students journal about what they’re reading about at home as they read. This can be simply just a few sentences summarizing about what they read, making a prediction about what will happen next time they read, or a short explanation of who is their favorite character and why. Also, after they are done writing, you can use their journal as a way to start a conversation about what they’re reading, or utilize as a tool to ensure they’re comprehending the text sufficiently. Since reading and writing go hand-in-hand, you can cut their reading time a little short and allow them time to journal.

**At School**

 While in the classroom, on a typical school day the time we devote to reading and writing will be roughly 2 hours in length. First we start off with whole-class instruction. During this time, we introduce/review our vocabulary words, and the students will get time to work individually and collaboratively towards mastery of these 10 words. To demonstrate their growth towards acquiring the meaning of these words, students will complete a journal and turn in as part of their grade. Also, during each theme, which last 2 weeks in length, there will be a focus language skill (verbs, proper nouns, pronouns, adjectives, etc.) in which the students will also practice in small groups and by themselves.

During our reading block, I am going to be incorporating Daily 5 into our literacy day. This is something that will be new for me, but I am very excited to implement this into the classroom. Two crucial components to make this a success will be students’ understandings of the expectations, as well as their ability to work independently on their tasks, whether it be on their own or with a partner.

Because of our schedule, we will complete our reading portion of the day during all school days, but will only complete writing 4 out of the 5 days. Because I think teacher modeling and getting the opportunity to interact with students before they work on their own is so important, I feel that at least a 40 minute writing session is beneficial to both educators at the students they teach. Since we as teachers don’t get a whole lot of time to let students know about as “older children”, I like to model stories around my own life. Also, I frequently allow students to ask me questions about my topic, or give suggestions on how to improve my story. Before the students work individually, we review our learning target for the lesson and students are provided any handouts they may need, such as organizers or writing rubrics. Much like with Guided Reading, I will be working with small groups or individuals during this time. Students will be expected to complete several copies of their writing while making adjustments/improvements along the way. To allow students time in class to practice their typing skills, we will be publishing our final drafts in the Computer Lab. However, I feel that the time students are given in school to become proficient at typing is not enough, and I highly encourage you to have your child utilize the link I have provided on the Weebly class page to boost their typing performance. Also, since all students work at different speeds, and I can relate to not being the first done at things myself, you may want to consider purchasing an inexpensive flash drive for your child to bring to and from school. This device can be beneficial both in my classroom and Technology.

I hope that you found this explanation of the reading curriculum helpful. If you have any questions/concerns about anything throughout the school year, please feel free to contact me via email at jhansen@dunlapcusd.net.

Mr. Hansen