

**Dear Parents,**

Your child will be participating in the following English Language Arts units of study this quarter:

**The People, the Preamble, and the Presidents****Investigation on a Planet Called Earth – And Beyond****Reading Literature and Informational Text**

Students will practice determining the main idea and supporting details. They will learn new words and phrases. When reading, they will describe how the text is organized and use the illustrations to understand the meaning of a text. Students will compare and contrast themes, settings, plots, and details in a text. Students will use resources found in books or on the computer to locate information about a given topic.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will read grade appropriate sight words, multi-syllable words, and words with common prefixes and suffixes. They will read books and poems fluently with purpose and understanding.

Writing

Students will write to explain and support their opinions. They will strengthen their writing by planning, revising, and editing their work.

Listening and Speaking

Students will ask and answer questions when listening to a speaker. They will come to class prepared to participate in discussions. Students will speak clearly and in complete sentences. They will create visual displays and audio recordings.

Language (Conventions of Standard English)

Students will use pronouns, possessive nouns, and –er/–est adjectives correctly. When writing complex sentences, they will use conjunctions such as *whether, therefore, either, before, while, and until*. In spelling, they will add suffixes to base words and use spelling patterns to write words. Students will determine the meaning of words and phrases in third grade texts and topics.

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Third graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. This quarter, students will continue to learn to form uppercase cursive letters. They will write words, sentences and paragraphs in cursive and self-assess their writing using model letters and words. When using the keyboard, students will continue using the home keys while typing words and sentences with punctuation. They will increase the proportion of time they type without looking at the keyboard. Students will begin experimenting with text formatting tools to change font, size, color and style and learn to insert images into text.