



Reading Class Syllabus  
School Year 2018-2019

Teacher: Liz Kaplan  
Grade Level: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Subject: Reading  
Contact Information:  
eakaplan@bcps.k12.md.us  
(443) 672-8446

**Goal:**

The goal of third grade reading is to increase students' skills in decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. Students are now reading to learn, rather than learning to read as in earlier grades.

**Course Overview:**

Students will be reading extensive and varied reading selections. Students will gain background knowledge via information passages before reading stories relating to those topics. Students will also work on reading fluency, vocabulary, literary analysis and writing.

Students will have daily vocabulary at the beginning of each lesson. During the story reading section students will participate in read-alouds, partner reads, and answering comprehension questions. After reading, students will answer workbook questions that include comprehension, vocabulary, making outlines, interpreting maps, and making timelines. Students will also answer questions from their textbooks that relate to the stories. Students will complete portfolio projects throughout the year that will extend their understanding of various literary skills and allow them to apply those skills.

**Supplies:**

Students need to bring home their reading textbook every night. This will allow them to reread the story from our daily lesson and complete their reading homework. Students will also have a homework folder and agenda that will come home with them every night. Their reading notebooks and folders will stay in their desks at school.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe
5. Be yourself

**Student Behavior and Consequences:**

All students are expected to follow Hampstead Hill Academy's school-wide expectations, which state that students are to be respectful, responsible, safe, caring, and friendly. Consequences of not meeting expectations will result in the following:

- Two verbal warnings
- Think Time (a reflection paper will be completed by the student and sent home for a parent to review and sign. Students who choose to improve their behavior before the end of the class period may not have their think time papers sent home—this decision will be made at the discretion of the teacher.)
- Lunch detention
- After school detention (parents will be notified by phone before 2 p.m. if a detention needs to be served that day)
- Office referral

### **Grading Policy:**

In Reading, students will be assessed using the following grading scale:

- Tests: 40%
  - Tests are usually given every two weeks, after 10 lessons are completed to mastery. Mastery on tests is 90% or higher.
- Checkouts: 20%
  - Checkouts are usually given every week, after 5 lessons are completed to mastery.
  - Read every night with your child to ensure they are practicing and prepared for their fluency checkout!
- Classwork: 30%
  - Classwork will be assigned at the completion of each lesson. Classwork can include work in their workbook, their textbook and extra Reading assignments. Mastery on independent work is 85% or higher.
- Homework: 10%
  - Homework will be assigned nightly Monday-Thursday and should take no more than 15 minutes. Typically, reading homework will consist of reviewing the lesson we read earlier in class and answering a reading skills worksheet. Homework should be written down in students' agendas daily.

### **Homework:**

Each night of the week students are to reread that day's lesson. Students will have reading homework worksheets that will reinforce their reading skills. ***Please sign your child's homework so that they can receive full credit for completion.***

### **Extra-Credit Work:**

There is no extra-credit work assigned. Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

### **Make-up/Missing Work:**

If a student is absent it is their responsibility to make sure their missing work is made up. If they want to come before or after school to make the work up, that can be arranged. Students need to make sure that their work is completed at least one week after being absent.

### **Coach Class:**

Coach class will be held every Tuesday from 7:30 AM – 8:00 AM. This will be a time for the teacher to meet with students who need additional assistance and support with material learned in class or with homework. Students will be notified if they need to attend coach class for extra support.

### **Late Policy:**

Homework that is turned in late will receive half credit. Homework is factored into the student effort grade.

### **Portfolios:**

Students will each maintain a portfolio of their work in the classroom. One piece of work from each class will be submitted into this portfolio during the first three quarters of the school year. Families are welcome to view this portfolio during classroom visits or conferences.

### **Parent Portal:**

Parents can access the parent portal to view student classwork, checkouts, tests and homework grades. In addition, tests will be sent home for parents to review. Parents can also check Infinite Campus to view their child's progress. The grade book is updated daily.

### **Teacher Bio:**

Ms. Kaplan started teaching at Hampstead Hill Academy in 2016. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in Spanish. She also earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University, with a focus on elementary education. She is originally from Pennsylvania, but has lived in Baltimore for 10 years.