

**Ms. Ahern**



**PARENT  
packet**

GVSA  
2019-2020

**3**

**THIRD  
GRADE**

# meet the teacher, Ms. Ahern

## WELCOME!

Hello, and welcome to a new school year! I am so excited to have your child in my class. This year will be full of new, fun, and challenging learning opportunities. I can't wait to get started!

## TEACHER FAVS

- ✧ **Food:** Sushi
- ✧ **Color:** Lilac and Turquoise
- ✧ **Flower:** Hydrangea
- ✧ **Music:** Taylor Swift
- ✧ **Candy:** Kit Kats
- ✧ **Teams:** Patriots, Red Sox, Bruins, and Celtics
- ✧ **Drink:** Coffee

## all about the teacher

This is my fourth year teaching at GVSA and my first year teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! For the past 3 years I have been teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts and moved to Charlotte, NC in 2016. Before that, I worked in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and graduated from Merrimack College with my bachelor's degree. I am currently working towards my master's degree in Reading Education at UNCC. Go Niners!

welcome,  
**FAMILIES!**

Dear Families,

August 2019

Welcome back to a new school year! My name is Ms. Ahern and I will be your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher this year. I am so happy to welcome you to our classroom! 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is a very busy year filled with lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities. I am very excited about what is in store for your child this year, and I look forward to working with you as well.

This is my fourth year teaching in CMS. It will be my first year teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade after previously teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade for the past three years. I am originally from Boston, Massachusetts and moved to Charlotte, NC in 2016. Before that, I worked in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and graduated from Merrimack College with a bachelor's degree. Currently I am working towards my master's degree in Reading Education at UNCC.

Attached in this packet, you will find important information about how our school day will run, schedules, expectations, and a few forms I would please like you to fill out and return to school with your child.

I look forward to a fun-filled year with your child. I have many exciting things planned and can't wait to get started!

Sincerely,

Ms. Ahern

# our classroom EXPECTATIONS

As 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is an extremely busy and important year for our scholars, we have no time for nonsense! This year, students will be held to high expectations right from the start. If students are unable to meet these expectations, teachers and parents will be in communication and consequences will be put in place.

Our classroom expectations are as follows:

- ❖ Be **on time, on task**, and **prepared to learn** EVERY DAY. There are no free days in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!
- ❖ **Respect** the teacher, the classroom, other students, and yourself. **We're nice to people in this classroom.**
- ❖ **Be responsible** for your own learning. **Accept responsibility** for your actions. **Be accountable** for your results. **Take ownership** of your mistakes. Your success is a result of what **you** do.
- ❖ **Clean up after yourself.** Keep our classroom environment clean so that everyone can do their best learning.
- ❖ All personal electronic devices must be **put away and on silent** at ALL TIMES. Don't distract others from doing their best.

# What to KNOW

**SCHOOL DAY** The school day begins at 8:00am and is dismissed at 3:00pm. Your child is expected to be in their seat, ready to learn no later than 8:00am, or they will be considered tardy (aside from buses arriving late or inclement weather). Students who eat breakfast in the mornings must still be in the classroom by 8:00am. Please see our class schedule attached in this packet. I will be sure to inform you if our schedule happens to change.

**BEHAVIOR** Please refer to the attached letter about the behavior resource we will be using, **Class Dojo**. Students are expected to follow directions, respect their peers and teachers, and work hard. If students do not demonstrate appropriate behavior, then consequences will be put in place. I expect scholars to rise to the high standards set in our classroom.

**Rewards:** positive dojo points, verbal praise or rewards

**example:** homework pass, sit next to a friend for a day etc.

**Consequences:** silent lunch, negative point on dojo, independent recess (playing independently).

**CLASS WEBSITE** We have a classroom website! Be sure to check it out at! Here you will find newsletters, photos, important dates, monthly learning targets, online resources, and much more! I do my best to keep it updated as often as possible.

**DISMISSAL POLICY** If your student is going to be absent, dismissed, or tardy please provide me and/or the office with written documentation, if possible, prior to or immediately following the event. Please note that this also applies to ANY change in regular dismissal procedures. **If I do not have written documentation, note or email, stating that your scholar will be going home in a different way than usual, I WILL NOT be able to send them anywhere but their usual dismissal place.** Students who are absent will be given a folder containing any work they may have missed on the day they were absent. That work must be completed and returned within a week of the student's absence.

**NEWSLETTER** About every week or two I will send out a weekly newsletter. The newsletter will preview the upcoming two weeks, birthdays, important dates/reminders etc., as well as an update of how our week went, sometimes with a few pictures. I will send home a paper copy, as well as through parent email.

# What to KNOW

## TECHNOLOGY POLICY

School policy allows students to bring in personal technology devices from home when technology forms are filled out. These forms will be provided by the school and/or teacher. The purpose of these devices is to give students access to digital learning opportunities that may not otherwise be provide to them without their technology. While these devices are allowed, they are only to be used on approved sites with teacher discretion. Students who are using technology outside of the guidelines set by the teacher will have their technology confiscated and will be required to have a parent come to the school to collect the device. If you allow your child to bring a personal technology device to school, it is expected that the device is ready for student use. No charging of devices will be allowed in the classroom. **Should anything happen to your child's device while at school, Governors' Village STEM Academy is not responsible for damages, theft or loss.** Please be mindful of this when deciding if your child will bring technology to school or not. It is **not** a requirement for students to bring additional technology as we do have access to devices in the classroom. Please be on the lookout for **additional technology** information coming home with your child. based on assessment of student's mastery and preparedness.

# What to KNOW

## HOMework POLICY

Every week your student will be given a homework sheet. The homework sheet will include vocabulary and spelling words, the skills your child is learning that week, required homework, reading log and behavior chart. On the back of the homework sheet, will be the weekly math homework. Math homework is assigned every day but students may complete the problems in advance if they wish to do so. 60 minutes of reading is expected to be completed each week by Friday. It is up to you and your child how you wish to break up the time, as long as the full 60 minutes are completed and recorded on the reading log by Friday when homework is turned in. There will also be a short list of additional homework assignments to be completed on the homework sheet. Like the reading, these assignments can be completed any time during the week. All homework assignments are to be completed and ready for submission when your child turns in their homework on Friday. Please know that assessment dates are flexible and will be determined

## MISSING WORK POLICY

Sometimes, students lose work or don't have enough time to complete all required assignments. I will give them class time and I will also document missing work on their Thursday Folder weekly. **If an assignment is not turned in, it will result in a zero.** Once a new quarter has started, your student cannot turn in any old work for credit. *Students are expected to complete all assignments in a timely manner. It is my expectation that your child will be responsible for completing and turning in all their assignments.*

# What to KNOW

## GRADING SCALE

This year your child will be receiving letter grades or scores on their assignments. The grading scale is as follows:

**A:** 90-100

**B:** 80-89

**C:** 70-79

**D:** 60-69

**F:** 59 and below

Your child will be given informal and formal assessments this year. Informal assessments make up 60% of your child's grade and include assignments such as homework and classwork. Formal assessments make up 40% of your child's grade and include assignments such as tests, quizzes and projects.

Not all formal assessments will have retests. Cycle assessments will be retested if students earn lower than an 80%. When they retest they are only eligible to earn up to an 79% (CMS policy)

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

We love celebrating our classmates birthdays! Students are more than welcome to bring a treat on their birthday to share with the class, or on their half birthday if they have a summer birthday. Please email me a day prior to bringing the treats in. **All treats MUST be store bought and nut free.**

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please do not hesitate to email or call me with any questions you may have. I can be reached at my school email, **meaghan1.ahern@cms.k12.nc.us** or through the school at **980-343-5268**. Please allow for 24 hours response. **If I receive the email after 5 pm please expect a response the following school day.** I also utilize the **Class Dojo App** for parent communication. I will post class updates along with sending messages to individual parents. Quiet hours are from 5 pm – 6 am each day. If you send a message during that time frame I will not be notified until 6 am the next school day. **I strongly urge you to join Class Dojo. Please see the attach Class Dojo information sheet.**



# Thursday FOLDER

Every Thursday, your child will bring home a folder full of his or her work from the previous week. This is to keep you updated on your child's academic progress. I believe that parental support and involvement are vital in the success of your child, and you will need to sign the top copy of these documents to show that you have looked over the work for the week. If you have any further questions or concerns about any of the assignments, you can email me to schedule a conference, or call the school at 980-343-5268. Please know that if a student does not bring back the Thursday folder signed the next day, the consequence will be silent lunch. If you would like more time to review the work with your child, please write me a note or email so I am aware and your child will not be given silent lunch. I definitely support any extra time you'd like with the graded work.

# CLASS DOJO

This year we will be using a web-based program called Class Dojo to help track students' behavior and to stay in contact! Not only is this a great behavior management tool, but it is also an excellent communication tool to help keep you updated about your child's behavior, academics, and the happenings of the classroom!

## ABOUT CLASS DOJO

In Class Dojo, students can earn points for positive behaviors such as being on task, being respectful, being responsible, outstanding work, etc. Students can also lose points for negative behaviors such as being off task, not following directions, not turning in homework, messy or unfinished work, etc. I will instantly note students behavior into Class Dojo, and students will either earn or loss points. Students will know when they are earning/losing points because they will hear a high or low pitch 'ding' through the overhead projector.

Students will be working toward our class' **100 point club**. Students who reach the 100 point club are celebrated for their hard work and awesome behavior! They will earn their name on our hall of fame, a certificate of achievement, and a prize of their choice! Students will be responsible for tracking their own progress through weekly Dojo Point Cards, and in class data trackers. **Weekly Dojo Point Cards will be attached to your students agenda so that you are aware of student points each day.** Students will use in class trackers to monitor their progress towards 100 points. **This will stay at school at all times.** Students are responsible for their own trackers. **If a student loses their point tracker, the student will have to start all over.** My goal is for your students to become responsible for their work and supplies.

The following sheet gives you directions on how **to join our class online. Please do so as soon as possible!** Once you have joined our class, you will be able to check your child's progress at anytime of the day. Another bonus is that students can create their own account, so they can check on their own progress as well. Another great feature of Class Dojo is the ability for me to send messages to parents. It is a great communication tool and is a great way for you to stay informed on your students progress.

Attached is your invitation letter from Class Dojo with directions on how to connect to our class, for both you and your child. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am looking forward to using this great resource!

Sincerely,

*Ms. Ahern*