

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

**Welcome to third grade! I am Shandy Phillian, your child's math and science teacher for the 2016-2017 school year. Third grade is the first year your child will experience departmentalization. This means your child will have two teachers this year. One teacher will teach English/Language Arts (ELA) and one teacher will teach Math and Science. I hope that you and your family had a relaxing summer and are ready to begin an exciting year filled with fun and learning!**

**Your child will encounter many new skills in third grade. In math, we will embark on a journey of learning about new concepts and new ways of thinking. Your child will have a math notebook to practice concepts in all areas of the Pennsylvania Common Core Mathematical Standards. We will also stress the importance of mastering basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. We will be using a math workshop model that will enhance student learning through the use of centers and small group instruction.**

**We will be studying science through scientific inquiry. Through fun, hands-on experiments and journaling, your child will learn about the scientific process of asking questions and using observation and evidence to support his/her findings.**

**I would like to start the year by building a bridge of communication with you in your child's education. This year, your child will bring home a Daily Assignment Notebook and Homework Folder. The homework assignments for the night will be written in the Daily Assignment Book. I am encouraging you to sign the assignment notebook every night. Your child will bring homework home on the right side of the homework folder that says "return to school" and work that has been completed in class will be on the left side of the folder. Homework assignments will usually include: practicing**

**math facts, a math assignment, or studying for tests. If homework assignments are not completed, they will be completed during recess.**

**Every child will be expected to follow the rules, be respectful, perform at their peak, and learn responsibility. These expectations will be reinforced through positive feedback as an individual and as a class. As a class, we will use a marble jar. The class will work together to fill the jar with marbles. Once the jar is full, the class will vote and celebrate their accomplishments with a popcorn party, pajama party, etc. Tickets will be used as an individual incentive. Your child can earn tickets for good behavior, trying his/her best, and great work. There will be a ticket drawing every Friday so your child has a chance to win a reward! I am anticipating a wonderful school year and am excited to be your child's teacher!**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [sphillian@sasdpride.org](mailto:sphillian@sasdpride.org). I can also be reached at (724) 962-7861 (school) between 7:50-8:30 a.m. I look forward to working together to create a positive and rewarding school year!**

**Sincerely,**

**Shenay Phillian**

