

Brent Elementary School

**Syllabus for Grade 3
2015-2016**

JoAnn Hill – Room 321

Elisabeth Kraemer – Room 312

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Grade Level Information

Contact Information

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Third grade website is available through the Brent Elementary Website:

www.brentelementary.org

For urgent needs during the school day, please contact the Brent Elementary School office at **202-698-3363**.

We also have a third grade website where you can find the third grade calendar of events, classroom announcements, word lists, and homework updates. We encourage you to check the website regularly as we update it every two weeks.

Communication

Each child will receive a green Communication Folder to deliver homework assignments, handouts, and notes from school-to-home and home-to-school. **This folder will come home nightly and should be returned every morning; please plan to check your child's folder every evening and remind your child to turn in any notes or signed papers.** On Tuesdays, the folder will also contain the Brent TuesNews. In addition, teachers will communicate through newsletters every other week and regular updates to the third grade website. Newsletters will offer suggestions on ways to reinforce learning at home. We will respond to all inquiries or concerns within 48 hours.

Daily Schedule

Based on DCPS guidelines, our students will have 120-minutes of literacy Instruction daily (including reading, writing, and word study), 90-minutes of math instruction daily, and 45 minutes of Social Studies/Science instruction daily. In addition, our students will have one 45-minute Special Class each day (Physical Education, Music, Art, Spanish, and Science).

2015-2016 Schedule

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:45-9:00	Morning Warm-up	Morning Warm-up	Morning Warm-up	Morning Warm-up	Morning Warm-up
9:00-9:15	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting
9:15-10:00	Writing	Writing	Math	Math	Math
10-10:30	Read Aloud Word Study	10:15-Read Aloud	10:15-Read Aloud	10:15-Read Aloud	Read Aloud Word Study
10:30-11:45	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
11:45-12:45	Recess and Lunch for Grades 3-5				
12:45-1:35	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
1:40-2:25	Science (Hill)	Art (Hill)	Language (Hill)	Music (Hill)	P.E. (Hill)
	P.E. (Kraemer)	Science (Kraemer)	Art (Kraemer)	Language (Kraemer)	Music (Kraemer)
	Music (Mas/Pax)	P.E. (Mas/Pax)	Science (Mas/Pax)	Art (Mas/Pax)	Language (Mas/Pax)
2:25-3:05	Language Conventions Social Studies/Science	Social Studies/ Science Science Lab (Kraemer)	Social Studies/ Science Science Lab (Maschari)	Social Studies/ Science Science Lab (Hill)	Community VIP
3:05-3:15	Closing Meeting and DISMISSAL				

Curriculum

Math

For Math, we use the Investigations in Number, Data, and Space Curriculum by TERC and Pearson Education. This program emphasizes computational fluency, reasoning about mathematical ideas, and engagement through games and manipulatives. You will be getting regular "Home Letters" about the content we are covering during each unit throughout the year (also available on our class website). The Common Core Math Standards inform our program and guide our instruction. There is an emphasis on recalling multiplication and division facts through 100.

Literacy

We use the Reading and Writing Workshop curriculum from Heinemann and Teachers' College for reading and writing. Each reading and writing unit includes Mentor Texts, high-quality literature, which teachers use to model specific reading or writing strategies that students emulate in their independent work. You will get regular updates on our current reading and writing units. Workshop curricula are aligned to the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts.

Social Studies / Science

In Social Studies, students will learn about Washington DC, including geography, neighborhoods, landmarks, government, history and economy. In Science, students will study migratory birds, life cycles, different forms of energy, health and nutrition, and the solar system.

Long Term Plans

Long term plans for Math, Reading and Writing are available on the Third Grade Website under the Curriculum Tab. We will make any updates available on our class website.

Assessment

Third Graders take standardized benchmark assessments throughout the year. We use the information to inform our instruction and reteaching groups. Students will take math quizzes during each Math unit, as well as a test at the end of each unit. Students reading levels are assessed three times a year using Fountas and Pinnell leveled reading assessments. Teachers will communicate about student performance through quarterly report cards, mid-advisory Progress Reports, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and graded assessments sent home.

Homework

Starting the third week of school, students will have Math homework Monday through Thursday. They are also expected to read 150 minutes/week and fill in their Read Across America Log, which is due on Wednesdays. Spelling homework will be due every other Friday. Spelling words will be available on the class website. Spelling homework will begin after the “First Six Weeks of School”.

Classroom Management

We use the Responsive Classroom approach to creating structure and building a strong classroom community. Whenever possible, we empower students to be independent thinkers and problem-solvers. We use role modeling to introduce and reinforce appropriate behavior and language; we employ logical consequences to address misbehavior, and hold class meetings to reflect, set goals, and celebrate achievements.

We will also utilize a “1-2-3” technique to provide students with reminders and opportunities to fix mistakes (1: silent reminder, 2: verbal reminder, 3: take a break). Students will be asked to take a break, or a “rest stop”, if inappropriate, distracting, or disruptive behavior persists after a reminder and correction. Students may also lose privileges or free time if they choose not to use their learning time appropriately (i.e. demonstrate consistently off-task behavior or are hurtful or disrespectful to another student or teacher).

In each third grade class, students may visit the “Take a Break” if they demonstrate or decide they need space or time to refocus their thoughts or regain control of their emotions. This designated area of the classroom allows children calm down and regroup safely and quietly. Students may be asked to complete a “Reflection Sheet” during or after their “break” in order to share their thoughts and reflections. If your child fills out a Reflection Sheet, it will be sent home for a parent/guardian to sign. We ask that you use this opportunity to discuss appropriate behavior with your child.

Field Studies

At Brent Elementary School, we believe that field experiences are an essential part of the curriculum. These opportunities provide firsthand experiences that enrich and extend the instructional program. Every trip is planned to meet specific objectives, as well as to serve as motivation for a new unit of study, extension of a concept taught in class, or as a culminating activity that enables students to connect classroom learning to the real world.

All expenses are covered by the \$60 Field Experience fee payable to the Brent PTA via the school website at the start of the year. This fee covers travel and programming expenses, as well as a field experience uniform shirt that is required for trip days.

Families will receive communication from their child's teacher a few weeks prior to the field experience that will include curricular connections, as well as a link to Permission Click, an online platform that will replace traditional paper permission slips. Using Permission Click, parents can digitally give approval on any device in seconds.

Chaperones are essential to the success of our field experiences. We hope that you'll have the opportunity to join our class on at least one field experience so you can see firsthand the real-world learning that strengthens our in-school studies. Prior to chaperoning, you will receive a handout of frequently asked questions, as well as specific information about the trip.

Some field experiences your child can look forward to this year are:

- • The National Zoo as part of our unit Migratory Bird Unit
- • The Capitol as part of our unit Washington, DC Government Unit.
- • The Supreme Court as part of our unit Washington, DC Government Unit.
- • Living Classroom's Half-Shell Boat Trip as part of our unit Life Cycles Unit.

Volunteering

Our third grade team loves support from friends and family members! We frequently need assistance with bulletin boards, organizing, filing, labeling, and other classroom jobs. After the first six weeks of school, we also welcome volunteers to work with students during the school day supporting an art project or other activities. If you are not able to volunteer during the day but still have some time to contribute, we do have some tasks that can be completed at home.

Please check our newsletters for volunteer needs throughout the year.

School-Wide Information

For more information on school policies, please see the Family Handbook, available at www.brentelementary.org.

Contact Information

Principal, Peter Young peter.young@dc.gov

PTA President: Kevin Moore, kbmoore25@gmail.com

Springboard Site Coordinator: Vivian Hill-Lawson, vhlawson@springboardschool.com
800.341.3177

After-school pick-up arrangements must be made in the morning **by email or the Communication Folder**. Please do not call the front office to inform the school of changes of after-school pick-up arrangements. All children not picked up by 3:30 p.m. will be enrolled in after-care and parents will be charged the daily fee.

For urgent needs during the school day, please contact the Brent Elementary School office at **202-698-3363**.

Communication

TuesNews: Every Tuesday, families will receive a newsletter, known as the “TuesNews.” This newsletter will provide valuable school-wide information about upcoming programs, classroom highlights, weekend activities, and other essential information. Please plan to set aside time every Tuesday evening to read over this newsletter.

Website: Our school website site, *www.brentelementary.org*, provides a calendar of upcoming events, information on each classroom teacher and special programs, in addition to copies of important forms. Check the website regularly for updates and new pictures!

Family Handbook: This comprehensive handbook with details on school policies, uniforms, and other important issues. Copies are available on the website or in the Main Office.

Connect Ed Phone Calls: DCPS and Brent Elementary use Connect Ed Phone calls to communicate critical information. If you do not receive at least one Connect Ed phone call before Labor Day, please contact the Main Office to verify the home phone number on record.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for academic success. Students should arrive at school prepared to learn every day. **Students are expected to be in their class “parking space” on the playground (or at designated location during inclement weather) at 8:35 AM. Students who are not in their classrooms at 8:45 AM will be marked tardy.**

When students are absent, Brent follows the DCPS Attendance policies. A student’s absence will be considered “excused” only if it meets one of these requirements:

- Illness or medical cause experienced by the student
- Death in the student’s immediate family
- Quarantine, contagious disease, or infection (by direction of authorities)
- Observance of a religious holiday
- Medical or dental appointments for the student

In order for absences to be excused, a parent or guardian must provide the office with a written note including the student's name, teacher's name, and reason for the absence on the noted date. Students with more than three unexcused absences as well as students with frequent tardiness will be referred to the social worker for counseling and an intervention plan.

Food and Nutrition

Brent Elementary uses Chartwells-Thompson School Dining Services for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is free for all students and is served in the cafeteria from 8:15 AM to 8:35 AM daily. Parents can view lunch account statuses and add funds at the machine in the Cafeteria or online at www.mylunchmoney.com. **Student lunch costs \$2.00 daily.** Free and Income based reduced priced are also available. Contact the Main Office for more information.

Whether you buy your food at the school cafeteria or bring it from home, **Brent encourages families to pack healthy snacks and lunches for their children that include lots of fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains.**

Brent is a NUT-FREE SCHOOL. This includes both peanuts and tree nuts (such as almonds, walnuts, pecans, etc.). Brent has students with severe allergies to nuts that can be triggered simply by coming into contact with a surface that has nut residue on it, including keyboards and tabletops. Healthy alternatives to peanut butter that do not trigger allergies include soy-nut butter and sunflower seed butter, which are available in many super markets.

Uniforms

All students must wear their school uniform every day, unless otherwise notified. The uniform consists of a **hunter green or white collared shirt** or blouse and **hunter green or khaki pants**, shorts, skirts, skorts, or jumpers. Brent Elementary School shirts (t-shirts, polo shirts, and sweatshirts) are also appropriate with hunter green or khaki bottoms. Closed-toed shoes with rubber soles are required for Physical Education. Students are expected to wear safe, functional shoes and clothes that they can put on and off independently.

If students arrive at school without their uniform or wearing inappropriate clothing, parents will be contacted to bring suitable clothing and/or students may be asked to change into school provided uniform clothes.

Celebrations

Throughout the year, we have many opportunities to celebrate the season and acknowledge student learning as a school community, including Concerts, Museum Exhibition Night, and

Publishing Parties. In addition, teachers plan opportunities for family members to come into the classroom, share with each other, and recognize students' achievements. We also have various activities and events during the year for students to have fun and make memories together, such as school assemblies and Field Days.

Some holidays may be acknowledged during the year in individual classrooms as they pertain to class goals and grade-level standards. Instruction about holidays will be conducted in an objective, neutral, non-devotional manner and will serve a secular educational purpose.

We will not celebrate holidays with food, both out of respect for families who do not observe holidays or celebrations and for children who have food allergies and are not able to participate in food-related celebrations.

Student birthdays may be acknowledged in individual classrooms during the school day, in ways that do not interfere with instruction. **We will not celebrate birthdays with food.**

Families may email a photo from each year of their child's life and/or come in to read aloud a favorite book. Family members are also welcome to spend time at lunch or recess with their child on (or around) his or her birthday.