



# Welcome To Mrs. McDaniel's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class!

Dear Parents,

I am looking forward to working with this wonderful group of children this year! We had a busy and fun first day. I hope your child came home as excited about the year as I am. My name is Bess McDaniel (formerly Bess Findley - I got married this summer!), and I am your child's third grade teacher for this year. I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about myself so that we can begin to form a successful educational team for your child.

I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and attended Auburn University to pursue my dream of becoming a teacher. I graduated in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. My experience in the education program at Auburn University allowed me the opportunity to work in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms. After graduation I moved to Austin, Texas where I worked as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher in an International Baccalaureate World School. When I made the decision to move to Houston, I was thrilled to find a position in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at West U. This is my fourth year teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at West U!

My goal for each and every one of my students is to experience success and to grow as a learner. I firmly believe that every student has the ability to learn and every student will learn in my classroom. I also believe communication is the key to your child's success. I will be consistent in keeping you updated about what is going on in the classroom, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your support. I know that we will have an outstanding year together!

Sincerely,

Bess McDaniel

## Our Daily Schedule:

Time	Subject
7:30 - 8:10	Morning work
8:10 - 9:35	Reading
9:35 - 9:50	Snack
9:50 - 10:40	Ancillary
10:45 - 12:10	Math
12:12 - 12:42	Lunch
12:45 - 1:00	Math Wrap Up/Agenda Time
1:00 - 1:30	Recess
1:30 - 1:50	DEAR Time
1:50 - 2:40	S.S./Science
2:40 - 2:50	Clean Up/Pack Up
2:50	Dismissal

## A Few First Week Reminders!

**ATTENDANCE:** We have an action packed day in our classroom. Instruction begins promptly at 7:40 am with morning exercises and announcements, followed by morning work. I would appreciate your child being in his or her desk, ready to learn, at 7:30 am. I will have daily "DO NOW" instructions on the board each morning so your child will know what is expected. Students arriving after 7:40 am will be marked as tardy. I understand this may be difficult during the first few days due to parking issues. Early arrivers are not permitted in classrooms until the first bell at 7:30 am. They will need to wait in front of the school building or go to the cafeteria. Students arriving after 9:30 am will be marked as **absent** for the day unless the child has a doctor's appointment/medical excuse. A note from the health care professional must accompany the child upon returning to school *that day*. However, if your child arrives to school with a health care note after the first four hours of school (afternoon), it is marked as an excused absence. In order for an absence to be considered excused, the school will need a note (hand written or e-mailed to the registrar) from you within *three days of the absence*.

**\*\*I believe Independence is one of the most valuable school supply you can send with your child each day. It is important that students unpack and begin their academic day immediately without help from their parents.\*\***

**MONDAY FOLDERS:** Every Monday (unless it is a holiday), graded papers/tests and school-wide announcements will be sent home in a West U folder. This "Monday folder" is a means of weekly communication between teacher, school and parent. Please read the contents of the folder carefully. Please keep the graded work and return **ONLY** the work that requires a signature, school forms of interest to you and the folder **no later** than Wednesday of each week. I will also include a hard copy of our weekly classroom newsletter. The weekly classroom newsletter will be sent via email as well.

**HOMEWORK** - This week your child will receive a homework folder and an agenda. Students will record their homework and any important notes in their agendas daily and any needed worksheets and instructions will come home in their homework folders. **Please check the folder and sign the agenda book daily.** Your child will need to read at least 20 minutes daily as a part of his/her homework. As a general rule, homework is given daily except on weekends and holidays and is expected to be completed by the next day unless noted otherwise.

**DISMISSAL** - For the first week of school I will walk our class to the flagpole in the front of the school at dismissal. Please be sure to note on the attached forms if your child attends iKids, Kid Connect, or another after school program.

**CONTACT:** The best way to reach me is by email: [lfindley@houstonisd.org](mailto:lfindley@houstonisd.org). During the school day I will be focused on instruction and will not be able to check my email except during our designated planning time at 9:50 - 10:40 am while the students are at ancillary. If there is important information that you need to relay to your child, please call the front office and they will notify me.

**Important Dates to add to your calendar:**

1. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parent meeting: September 5<sup>th</sup> during our ancillary time (9:55 - 10:30am) in our classroom (room #901)
2. Open House: September 20<sup>th</sup>

**Our Classroom Website:**

*(note: the links are currently limited because we are just beginning our year!)*

[www.fearlessin3rd.weebly.com](http://www.fearlessin3rd.weebly.com)

# Important Information

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Relation to student: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother Contact Information:

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Father Contact Information:

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your student attend any after school program (ie. Kid Connect)? If so, please let me know which one:

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your student have any allergies or medical conditions that I should be aware of?

- Yes, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- No, there is nothing you should be aware of.

# Just Between You and I...

Please answer the following questions about your child. This information will help me throughout the year to interact with your child in ways that will most benefit his/her academic and social growth.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What does your student's like to do for fun **OUTSIDE** of school?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are your student's academic strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In what academic areas would you like to see your student improve? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Student lives with: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please list sibling(s) names and ages: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How would you rate your student's attitude toward school?  
(low) 1 2 3 4 5 (super)

7. How would you rate your student's sense of responsibility?  
(low) 1 2 3 4 5 (super)

Do you have any concerns you would like to share? If so, please feel free to add any additional information you think would be helpful on the back of this page.

Thank you so much 😊