

WELCOME

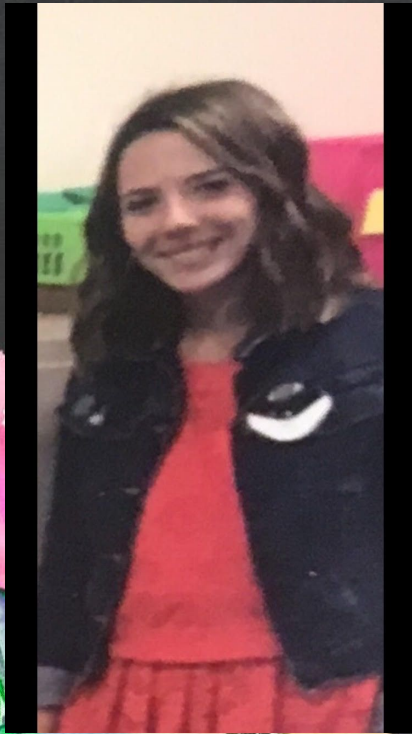
Back to School!

Mrs. Thurston's Class

2020-2021



# About Mrs. T



*I can't wait for this school year and to meet you! Are you as excited for 3rd grade as I am? This will be my 2nd year teaching 3rd grade and 4th year teaching altogether. I am a family-oriented person – my husband's name is Jared and we have 2 dogs, 1 cat, and a bunny! I'm sure you'll hear lots of stories and see lots of pictures of them this year. I am also expecting a baby this October – his name is Jack! I will be going on maternity leave September 8th. More information will be sent home to parents about the long-term sub filling in for me, etc. See you soon, and I can't wait to learn all about you!*

# My Favorites

Season: *Spring*

Drink: *Water or anything from Starbucks!*

Color: *Teal or green*

Book: *The World According to Humphrey*

Candy: *Jolly Ranchers*

Food: *Pizza King or Olive Garden*

Store: *Hobby Lobby or Amazon*

Wax Melt: *Anything that smells good enough to eat!*

Ice Cream: *Strawberry*

Hobbies: *I create handmade soaps and I also enjoy antiquing, playing with my animals, and camping!*



# Contact Information

I value parent/teacher communication, and I believe it is essential for student success! If you ever have any questions or need to reach out, the following are the best ways to get ahold of me:

- Class DOJO (code to join our class DOJO is included in your Back to School packet) - please be sure to join and **turn on notifications!**
- Email: [athurston@cowan.k12.in.us](mailto:athurston@cowan.k12.in.us)
- Phone: 765-289-7129 Ext. 2160
- Good old hand-written notes are just as fine as well 😊



**\*I will be going on maternity leave starting September 8th-January 1st. If you have any questions, please contact the long-term sub that will be filling in for me. Information will be provided soon!**

# Daily and Related Arts Schedule

## Daily Schedule

7:45-8:10: Morning Routine  
8:10-8:25: Morning Meeting  
8:30-9:10: Related Arts  
9:15-10:55: Reading Block  
11:00-11:30: Recess  
11:30-12:00: Lunch  
12:05-12:35: Writing/Language Arts  
12:35-1:40: Math Block  
1:40-2:15: Science/Social Studies  
2:15-2:40: D.E.A.R. Time (Silent Reading)  
2:40-2:45: Teacher Talk/Pack Up  
2:50: Dismissal

## Related Arts

Monday: Library

Tuesday: P.E.

\*Don't forget gym shoes 😊

Wednesday: Technology

Thursday: Music @ 12:45

Friday: Art

# Homework Philosophy

I want my students to be able to enjoy time with their families when they get home! However, I do believe that a little practice at home over skills we are learning for the week can be really beneficial for student success. It should be able to be completed independently. Homework is written in agendas and updated on our class website daily (website can be found on the Cowan website under “Staff Lookup” > “Mrs. Thurston”)


## **Students are expected to:**

- Read for at least 20 minutes everyday
- Study and practice math facts (students will have flashcards that they should take home each night)
- Study spelling/vocab. words



# Weekly Assignments in Spelling

**Spelling Lists/Tests:** Students will take a spelling pre-test every Friday over 20 words. The first 10 words a student misses will be their spelling list for the week and they will receive a list with their words highlighted. If they spell a word correctly the first time, there is no need to take a test over it! 😊 If a student misses less than 10 words, then they will be given challenge words to complete their list of 10 words. Their list will be in the back of their take-home folder each week and should stay there until Friday. Spelling and reading tests will be taken on Friday's, and I encourage students to take home their reading books to read the weekly story again Thursday evening.



**Spelling Choice 3:** Students will be given the "Spelling Choice 3" assignment on Monday, and the activities are due by Friday morning. This assignment will be out of 30 points (10 points per activity). They will choose three activities to practice their spelling words for the week. The choice menu can be found on our class website and in the back of your child's folder for the year. Students will have at least 20 minutes each day in class to work on this during reading workshop stations.

# Weekly Assignments in Reading

**Weekly Story:** Each week, we will have a story in our reading book that we will use to practice literacy skills. We will read it twice in class and take a closed-book comprehension quiz on Friday. The quizzes are taken on Google Classroom. I always encourage students to take home their books and re-read the story on Thursday. The stories can be accessed online also via HMH Ed (students login with their credentials).

**Vocab. Log:** Students will be given the vocab. log assignment on Monday and it is due by Friday morning. The vocab. words are from our weekly reading story. Students will have at least 20 minutes each day in class to work on this during reading workshop stations.





# Classroom Management

**Good Behavior Tickets:** Since we don't do points with our Class DOJO, we do Good Behavior Tickets instead! When students are caught showing positive behavior, they are rewarded with a PBIS ticket (any staff member in the building can give students tickets). About twice per 9 weeks, students can make a trip to the office to cash in tickets for prizes. There's also an alternative if students don't want to buy things with their tickets. We have a coupon menu that students can cash in their tickets for non-tangible things, like helping another teacher, reading a book to the class, eating lunch with the teacher or principal, etc. It teaches them to be responsible with their tickets, and a great reward for awesome behavior!

**Class Jar:** Whenever the whole class gets a compliment for good behavior from myself or other Cowan staff, the class receives marbles in our jar. When the marbles reach the top, the class gets a reward! I've done doughnuts, extra recess, and popsicles before. We'll come up with some rewards as a class. :-)

**Action Plan:** If students are struggling with behavior (depending on the situation), I will have them fill out an action plan. The purpose of the action plan is to help the student stop, think, and come up with a plan to fix the behavior. These are sent home to receive a parent signature and then returned to school the next day.



# Newsletter


A newsletter will be sent home every Monday with your child in the back of their take-home folder. The newsletter is **VERY** important because it will include skills we are working on for the week in each subject area, as well as important dates, information, etc. I'll also post important information on our Class DOJO. Be sure to join that as well

**The code to join Class DOJO is in your packet that students will receive on the first day of school - I recommend downloading the app and making sure notifications are turned on via your phone!**



# Black Take-Home Folder

This is a great way for you and I to communicate, as well as a great way for students to know what to leave at home and what to bring back to school. Students need to bring their black folder home and to school everyday.



In the back of their take-home folder each week, you can find their spelling words, spelling choice 3 menu, and weekly newsletter. These are to stay in their folder daily.

# Agenda

At the beginning of everyday, students are to fill in their homework in their agenda (my agenda will be on the board for them to copy). At the end of the day, we have Teacher Talk and go over our homework for the day. I'm no longer making a parent signature required, but I encourage parents to check their child's agenda daily.

Agendas are to go home and return to school daily. I collect them on Friday's and they will not go home over the weekend. This is just a helpful tool to keep students organized. :)



# Digital/E-Learning

I understand that last year was a learning experience for all as we dove right into eLearning, and I want to assure you that I am here for you if you ever have any questions! I want to make the process as clear and simple as possible.

This year, students will receive their very own Chromebook to use in the classroom and at home in case we go back to digital learning. These will stay at school except for when taken home for eLearning. In the past, your child completed packets for their eLearning assignments. In 3rd grade, students complete their eLearning assignments via Google Classroom. We use Google Classroom quite frequently in 3rd grade. Students will have their username and password in the back of their black take-home folder. Google Classroom will also already be bookmarked on their Chromebook for easy access.

During the first few weeks of school, we will practice in Google Classroom and have practice eLearning assignments that we will complete in class together to help students feel comfortable. More information about e-Learning will be sent home in the future, and I recommend keeping up to date with Mr. Brown's resource posts on the Cowan Website. Please let me know if you ever have any questions! We are in this together and I want this to be a positive experience for all. :-)

