

Brantley Classroom News

Cumberland Elementary
<http://www.wl.k12.in.us/cumberland/>



STEM to STEAM

Third Grade: *News / Curriculum*

Date: 5-16-14

Dear 2013-2013 Class,

The year is over and the children are heading home. This is one of the most difficult times of the year for a teacher (who loves to teach). I have finished...although I still have so much I could have done. Books have all come home (some complete, some not completed). Please know that all topics have been covered...not always straight from the book. Math in particular is a good practice book...but I teach many of the lessons outside of the book and with other resources. What's left is up to you...you can use these as resources for practice...or use it to start a summer bonfire.

It's been a full year. As I look back at pictures and projects I am amazed how we squeezed that much into 180 days. The days went quickly and were almost all full/busy days that left me exhausted...but I wouldn't trade them for anything!! I thank you for your children. I thank you for their energy and enthusiasm.

This is the end of an amazing and memorable year. I hope that you can say that you have learned and appreciated at least a few things throughout this year. As I look at the end of this year and the last days with you I find myself thinking of what I learned and I what I appreciated from you. Too often we save these thoughts and forget to share these positive notes with those around us. As this class has reached the end (the end of 3rd grade) this is in a sense my 3rd grade classroom eulogy...except I am not mourning the loss but instead sharing what I have learned from your child....just the high points.

So I will begin (as always) in number order:

#1 - I have learned a devotion to learning and a will to always strive for my best. You were always quick with a smile and ready to work hard every day.

#2 - I have learned to see the humor in the world. I have learned to be a friend and laugh often. I have learned to keep everything real and not get too worked up about the world.

#3 - I have learned that a fierce sense of competition can be combined with a true compassion for others and a sense of fairness rivaled by few I have ever known. I have learned how to bring competition to the game but remember who my friends are.

#4 - I learned to be curious about the world at large. I have learned to research, read, and appreciate all that the world and history have to offer. Geeky is the new cool...and I'm there.

#5 - I have learned to enjoy every moment. I have learned to work hard and get done with work and then play hard and love life. I have learned that fun and crazy are just as necessary as food and oxygen.

#6 - I have learned that diligence and patience work. I have learned to maintain a constant pace with work until I'm done. I have learned how drama and the dramatic arts are so closely tied to reading and good storytelling.

#7 - I have learned to take studies seriously, work hard and still hold onto humor and a passion for play. I have learned more about balancing priorities and playing when I can.

#8 - I have learned about true persistence. There are times when giving up really is the easiest solution...then there are times when you need to push forward. Thank you for showing me that this year.

#9 - I have learned to laugh...and laugh hard. Life is full of fun times...I have learned that everyone needs to take time to enjoy and laugh when you can.

#10 - I have learned to be the fierce competitor but never give up the academic edge. I have learned to keep an open mind about video games and other "fun" apps that have practical and educational value hidden below their surface.

#11 - I have learned to be myself. Too often we can get caught up in the style or the trend...most of the time who we are is the best version of ourselves. I have learned to be a friend to all, and to play when the option is available.

#12 - I have learned to be the life long learner. I have learned to always be curious and to enjoy the research and the topic at hand. I have learned to always be caring and empathetic. I have learned to always be kind, always remember good manners and above all to be true to myself.

#13 - I have learned to live life to the fullest. We too often take for granted all that we have around us (people, places and things). I have learned to joke, play and laugh...but I have also learned to work, study and strive for success. Balance is difficult...sometimes you need to lighten up and just enjoy.

#14 - I have learned to be strong, be happy, and be confident. I have learned to giggle at the little things (when you really need to laugh) and even giggle at the bigger things (when you need the situation to calm down).

#15 - I have learned to be the serious student, but also remember to be silly. I have learned to sing (maybe not yet in public) and enjoy the world. I have learned how better to be in the moment without forgetting the priorities still in my life.

#16 - I have learned to be the voracious reader. I have learned how the written language can offer the escape...the timing is the key...but an escape into your imagination is invaluable.

#17 - I have learned to be the most creative and inspiring person that I can be. I have learned to use creativity as the powerful tool that it is. I have learned that humor...an incredibly dry sense of humor is the absolute best!!

#19 - I have learned to absolutely never judge a book by its cover. Surprises sometimes come in some of the cutest or even smallest packages. I have learned how easily engineering and creativity can intermingle. I have learned how true it is that STEM is now the old version...STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) is the current and necessary version.

#20 - I have learned to be ever curious. Always ask the questions...because if you don't someone else is already thinking it...and may be too shy to ask. I have learned to be diligent and to never give up. Pace does not denote understanding.

#21 - I have learned to be curious, to be happy, to be creative and to always be a friend. I have learned to excel in what you enjoy and work harder in those things you don't enjoy. I have learned better how to appreciate every opportunity.