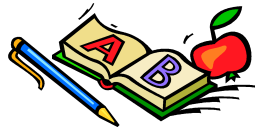


# ***Level 3 Handbook***

**3rd and 4th Grade**

**Katie Lorah**

***2022-2023 School Year***



Dear Level 3 Parents,

Hello, I am Katie Lorah and I am the Level 3 teacher. I earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. I studied at Antioch University New England and earned my Bachelor's Degree at Temple University in Philadelphia. I taught 3rd through 7th grade, and this will be my 10th year teaching. I started the first 7 years of my teaching career in Vermont where I passionately worked in a school for boys with backgrounds of trauma who had behavioral health issues as a result. In that setting I learned about the importance of social/emotional health, clear and consistent expectations and boundaries, a variety of classroom management techniques, and building a classroom where students feel safe to take risks in their learning.

I was born and raised outside of the Philadelphia area. I was passionate about athletics and played soccer on a scholarship at Temple University. During graduate school I fell deeply in love with New England and moved around Vermont and New Hampshire for 9 years. I worked on a farm and also worked as a naturalist for a few years there. My time in New England really grounded in me a love for the natural environment. I'm particularly interested in birds and I am so excited to have new bird species to learn here in the Southwest. I love being outside hiking, kayaking, camping, etc., and I am thrilled to be in a warmer climate these days.

I love teaching and working with children. It is a joy to see them grow in all areas of academics and in their social emotional health. I am so excited to be at the Willow Creek Charter School this year. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of your child's education.

## **My Teaching Philosophy and Classroom Environment**

Teaching and working with children is a true passion of mine. It brings me joy to watch them grow in all areas of their lives. I believe that in order to have a successful classroom, the classroom environment needs to be a safe place where all students feel a sense of belonging. When these needs are met, students then feel safe enough to take risks to learn.

I also believe in teaching kindness and respect throughout each day we are together. Listening to others' ideas, respecting ideas that are different from theirs, and kindly communicating questions, thoughts, and concerns are of the utmost importance in establishing a community of students eager to learn and share.

Furthermore, I believe students learn best through evidence-based and engaging playful activities. That is why in our multi-age classroom, students will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions to find deeper meanings in text, to analyze solutions, to problem solve, and to engage in hands-on academic experiences. These experiences will prepare them for a future founded on communication, appropriate risk-taking through the sharing of ideas, and problem solving in team collaboration.

Computer-based learning will also be embedded in our school days to help students maintain the skills of navigating online assignments that will be necessary for middle and high school. Your child will have a balance of practicing technology and learning in a traditional classroom setting.

**This handbook was created to help you and your child familiarize yourselves with the major components of Level 3. Please read this handbook and keep it as a reference for the entire year.**

## Communications

**School Phone Number: 928–776-1212**

**Website: [www.willowcreekcharter.com](http://www.willowcreekcharter.com)**

**Email: [Level3@willowcreekcharter.com](mailto:Level3@willowcreekcharter.com)**

## Reminders for School

- School begins at 8:00 and ends at 3:15. Students cannot be dropped off before 7:45 AM.
- Please make sure your child has their lunch and a water bottle in their backpack every morning.
- Please send a healthy snack to school every day. **Water only.**  
**Snacks are not available in the office.**
- Label anything and everything your child brings to school (backpacks, lunch boxes, jackets, etc.)
- Electronics are not permitted at school. **Personal phones will be stored in the teacher's desk.** Toys are not permitted at school (unless there is a special share day or toy party). All toys brought to school will be kept in the office until the end of the school day.

## Level 3 Behavior Plan

### Guidelines for student behavior:

Students may not disrupt the learning environment. Some students need extra support for learning, such as minimal distractions. Classroom disruptions will not be tolerated as it is stealing the opportunities other students need to learn. Depending on the scenario, your child may be escorted out of the classroom, lose classroom and school-wide privileges, and receive discipline documentation. Students will be guided to learn and apply new skills to help with any behavioral challenges, such as appropriately and responsibly requesting a short break from class rather than engaging in challenging behaviors that will result in me asking them to leave class. **All inappropriate behavior will be documented and reported to the school Director and you will also be notified and made aware of recurring or severe offenses. You may also be required to sign and return behavior infraction notices.** See the Willow Creek Charter School Student Handbook for more information.

### Classroom Expectations

1. Your grades are what you earn, not what I give you.
2. Doing your best feels the best.
3. Be respectful and kind to your teachers, your classmates, and yourself.
4. Clean up after yourself.
5. Ask for help appropriately and as often as you need it. There's no need to struggle by yourself.
6. Have integrity. Please don't cheat or lie. Ask for help and you won't need to resort to those behaviors.
7. Fair does not mean the same for everybody. You do not always need what another student has. Please understand that you will all have equal opportunities for success.
8. **Be a friend to yourself and your classmates.**

## Grading Policy

**90%-100% = A**

**80%-89% = B**

**70%-79% = C**

**60%-69% = D**

**50% and below = F**

## Corrections for Grades

Failing grades will be allowed to be corrected for a passing grade, the highest possible grade your child will receive on a corrected assignment will be a **70%**.

## Homework Policy

For the most part, homework is not given classroom wide. Studies show that homework creates more challenges at home (where downtime is important) and doesn't increase student's performances at school, UNLESS students are reading at home. If you are looking for consistent homework that will help your student, please read with them or have them read independently for 20 minutes each night. Reading fluency is incredibly important in the world we live in today. If you need help looking for a book that is the right reading level for your student, I am more than happy to help. Regarding the importance of reading fluency, there will be Thursday's when I send home student's spelling words for the following week to be looked at and practiced at home.

With that said, homework can be beneficial in specific circumstances where students need additional one on one support to increase their reading or math fluency skills. If you think your student might be in need of this additional support and that you are able to provide the additional support, please reach out to me and we will send home additional work to support targeted areas of need.

