



Curriculum Department
Frisco Independent School District

Dear Parents,

Welcome to third grade! This year we are using the state approved Handwriting Without Tears® (HWT) third grade program for handwriting instruction. This developmentally appropriate program uses hands-on, multisensory techniques to teach letter formation, legibility, and proper sentence spacing. Automaticity (fluency) in handwriting is critically important. Just as fluency in reading positively impacts reading comprehension, fluency in writing positively impacts writing composition. (Steve Graham, Vanderbilt University, 1996)

Your child will be using the *Cursive Handwriting* workbook to learn a vertical style of cursive that is easy to read and write. The program first introduces lowercase letters, beginning with those that are similar to print. *Cursive Handwriting* emphasizes correct habits for forming and connecting letters. Lessons invite active participation with silly spelling, fun sentences, activity pages with interesting themes, and more. Our goal is that cursive handwriting is a natural and automatic skill.

As we transition from the D'Nealian model of handwriting instruction to the HWT model your child may utilize letter formations from both styles. Research supports that as children advance in their handwriting development they personalize their style. Thus mixing of approaches may occur and is not problematic.

The attached charts will provide an overview of the HWT model. To learn more about this model, please visit hwtears.com to watch how-to videos that will show you what your child will be learning this year.

Sincerely,

The Elementary Curriculum Department

Handwriting Without Tears® Cursive Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Handwriting Without Tears® Print Alphabet

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii
Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz