

Dear Parents,

The third grade team would like to share some of the thinking that has gone into the ticket and reward movie system over the years. There are many ways to manage classrooms, but this has been very successful for us. While there are pros and cons, we have weighed them carefully and are satisfied that this meets the needs of most of our students.

The reasons that we feel the pros outweigh the cons with this system are:

- Significant rise in the classroom expectations from 2nd grade to 3rd. We expect much harder work, more focus, and less socializing. It is a challenge for most students to grow into.
- Most third graders are not yet mature enough to have strong self-control and intrinsic motivation.
- The developmental stage of 8 and 9 year olds includes being concrete thinkers. Most third graders appreciate a system of clear rules, and are very concerned with “fair” vs. “unfair.”
- Grants a privilege to students who meet behavior expectations. System is not solely punitive. The assumption is that all students are going to come to the reward movie/recess (they start with 10 tickets) so the emphasis of our system is on the choices kids make.
- Students are all part of the movie/recess to begin with and have 10 reminders (tickets) to follow our grade level rules.
- The 60-90 minutes that is spent on the reward activity is more than made up for in fewer disruptions to instruction for the remainder of the month.
- It's designed to recognize students who show responsibility MOST of the time. So losing a ticket or two in a month is OK and we tell the kids that.
- Each classroom has additional recognitions and rewards for students both individually and whole group. There are multiple ways each classroom recognizes good behavior, kindness, sharing, etc.
- Occasionally there is a need for a consequence to stop undesirable behavior (multiple write-ups, consistently breaking class/school rules, etc). Historically we have found that in the event a student misses the monthly reward, they work harder the following month to curb their behaviors in order to keep their tickets.
- Students have a sense of ownership of their actions when they are responsible for managing their tickets.

We have received many positive comments on the program from parents. Students also seem to really buy into this system because they view it as “fair” for everyone.

~ 3rd Grade Team