

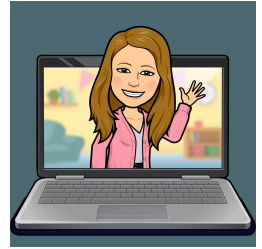
# Third Grade Parent / Student Handbook



I have put together a handbook of information to help you and your child become familiar with my expectations for the school year. Please take a day or two to read through this information. Keep the handbook in a special place so that you can refer to it throughout the year.

If you need to contact me, please send me a message through fast direct or call the school at (656-1230) and leave me a message. I will return your email or phone call as soon as I can.

# Important Details



**Red Folder** - Your child's red folder will go home daily and needs to be checked for any important notices or homework. Please place any notes for myself or the office in the folder.

**Blue Folder** - On Mondays, you will receive your child's blue folder with graded papers inside. Please review those papers with your child, sign the form inside the folder, and return the empty folder on Tuesday.

**Binder** - Your child's binder will contain a lot of information for each subject we study in school. Please **DO NOT** remove papers from their binder. I will have the students remove them when we are done with a chapter or unit and send them home in their blue folders. You will find our schedule, their username and password list, along with a paper showing each letter printed and written in cursive. You will find worksheets, study guides, lists, vocab words, etc behind each tab throughout the binder - grammar, spelling, reading (Storyworks), math, science, social studies, vocabulary and writing.

**Assignment Notebook** - Your child's assignment notebook will be brought home daily with a list of all their homework, tests, and/or projects. The students will be responsible for filling out their notebook each day.

**Fast Direct** - Please check my planner: bulletin board and calendar. This is where you will find spelling words, websites that we use, and the calendar is where I post homework and upcoming tests. Homework is blue, tests are red.

**Chrome Books** - Each student will receive a Chromebook that will be used by your child through eighth grade. All of the websites we use at school, you will have access to as well. The websites, students usernames and passwords will be kept in their binder. Your student will be using Google Classroom for assignments as well as some tests / quizzes. You will have access to their google classroom account.

**Student Handbook** - Please take note of the uniform policy, homework policy, and tardies. Third grade is a huge growth year - academically, spiritual and physically. Students must be in their seat ready to work by 7:50 A.M. If they are not, they will be counted tardy. I do not recommend "extras" for lockers, because they become a distraction.

**Birthday Guidelines** - Please make sure you provide store bought treats in their original container if you wish to share with the class. Please do not send in cookie cakes or items that require cutting. We will celebrate birthdays at the end of the day. Please send me an email letting me know you will be sending in snacks!

**Holidays** - We will celebrate Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. I will send home a sign up genius a couple of weeks before each party.

# Third Grade Subjects

**Religion:** We will concentrate on Sacraments this year, along with discussing the Holy Spirit, Christian Initiation, forgiveness, prayer, Marks of the Church, etc. We will attend Mass on Thursdays and Fridays. This year students will attend Mass at the Cathedral for their Confirmation / First Communion. A meeting scheduled with Mrs. Eva Duncan will explain everything and she will have paperwork for you. Your child needs to start thinking about their Saint name and who they would like as their sponsor.

**Grammar:** Instruction includes parts of speech, sentence structures, and writing. We will discuss nouns - common, proper, singular, plural, irregular plural, concrete, abstract, possessive; verbs - past, present, future, helping, linking; adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, subject / verb agreement, comparative / superlative, conjunctions, capitalization, etc.

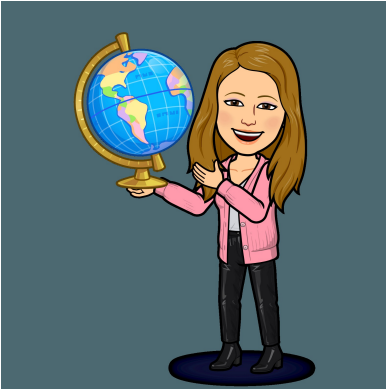
**Vocabulary:** Vocabulary will consist of 6 words a week. Day 1 will be the introduction of the words and definitions. They will be recorded in their vocabulary book.. Day 2 will be a review. We will also write the words in sentences. Day 3 will be discussing synonyms and antonyms. Day 4 will be the introduction of the WOW word, which will include a prefix or suffix or both. Day 5 will be a review of the words. There will be an assessment every other week over the 12 words.

**Spelling:** Lists will include 15 words each week. The students will keep the list of their spelling words in their binder. On Day 1, we will discuss the skill, words, and their definitions. Day 2 will be a notebook activity that will be kept in their binder. Day 3 will be a worksheet we will complete in class and one that will go home as homework. Day 4 will be task cards that will be completed using Google Classroom. Day 5 will be the assessment over the 15 words and the skill we were working on for the week.

**Reading:** The students will learn story elements and strategies for reading different genres, as well as techniques for becoming better readers using Schoalstic Storyworks 3 as the curriculum. Each magazine will include a nonfiction story, fiction story, paired text, play, poetry, and a debate. Each genre will have different concepts, such as vocabulary, main idea, supporting details, sequencing, cause and effect, comprehension, compare and contrast, etc. Each story will have comprehension questions, which will be answered in complete sentences, and a quiz.

**Math:** Chapters include addition, subtraction, estimating, multiplication, division, perimeter, area, fractions, measurement, telling time, elapsed time, shapes, and graphing. I allow the students to make corrections on their math homework. We will discuss the expectations for the corrections in class and at curriculum night. I assign xtramath to the students to complete each day. It is very important for students to know their facts.

**Science:** Our topics include motion and forces, electricity and magnetism, weather, climate, life cycles and traits, adaptations and survival, and fossil evidence. We will discuss the topics in class, take notes in our books, complete questions over the topic being studied, take a quiz over each lesson, and take a test over the entire chapter.



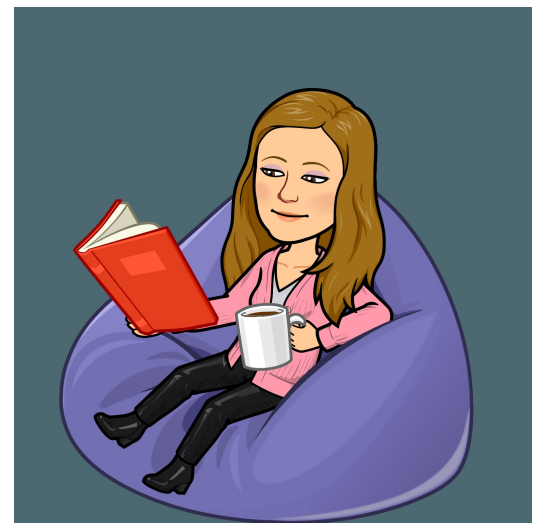
**Social Studies:** This year the students will be studying communities, geography, landforms, location, our environment, inventions, citizens, cultures, government and economics. We will be reading and discussing topics from our books and taking notes in our inquiry journal. There is a quiz after each lesson, and a test after each chapter.

**Writing:** Each quarter we will focus on one type of writing. First quarter, we will write a personal narrative, second quarter an informational report, third quarter an opinion writing and fourth quarter a fictional narrative. Each day, we will have a mini lesson and time to work on that skill.

**Handwriting:** In third grade we will learn cursive handwriting. I will go through each letter (capital and lowercase) before we start writing words. There will be a paper showing how to write each letter in your child's binder. I will model cursive on the board for the students. By the end of the year, they should only be writing in cursive.

**Morning Work:** Every morning, there will be morning work on your child's desk for them to work on. This may be a review or preview of skills in math, reading, or grammar. Morning work will not be graded, but I do expect it to be completed each morning. We will go over the answers together and discuss anything the students are unsure of.

**Accelerated Reader:** A very important part of our reading happens at home. Every night students are asked to read 20 minutes for AR (Accelerated Reader). Accelerated Reader is a program that tests students on what they remember (comprehension) from books they've read that have been selected within a range that is best for them. Students will take the MAP test in mid-September and this will help to determine his/her appropriate reading level. From this, students, along with their teacher will be given a goal to reach each quarter. Students choose books within their assigned reading level and when they finish reading, they take a computer quiz over the story (quizzes can only be taken at school). Students should strive to get an 80% or higher on these online quizzes. They then receive points which are accumulated to reach their goal. Failure to meet this goal will affect their reading grade as well as exclude them from quarterly rewards. If you purchase a book or have books at home you can look up the AR level by going to [www.arbookfind.com](http://www.arbookfind.com). Parents can also monitor their child's AR progress by going to Home Connect. You will be receiving information on how to set up your home connect. Home Connect will give you access to your child's overall progress in AR, last quiz they have taken, books your child has read, and a place to find new books for your child to read.



## Homework/Classwork

Homework is important because it helps reinforce what has been taught in class. Homework prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility and helps students develop positive study habits. Research shows that regular homework given in reasonable amounts helps develop self-discipline, responsibility, and time-management skills.

Since homework is a vital part of learning, it is imperative that it be completed and turned in on time. I expect students to do their best work on each homework assignments. Homework should always be neat, not sloppy. All written work should be done in pencil. I also expect homework to be completely finished by class time the following morning. If a student has forgotten or not completed their homework they will lose 5% points each day it is late. The student may need to stay in for recess to complete the missing work.

Parents: Parents are the key to making homework a positive experience for their child. Therefore, I ask that parents make homework a top priority at home, provide necessary supplies, and a quiet homework environment. Set aside a time every day when homework should be done and provide praise and support. I have often been asked for tips to help with homework. The following are some suggestions.

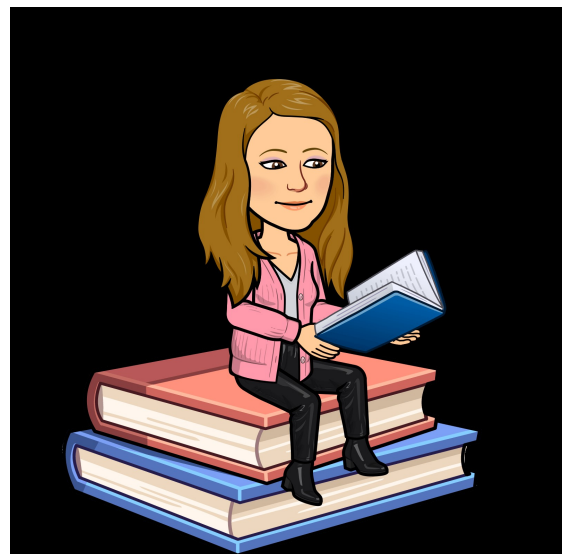
\*Make homework a priority at home

\*Keep it a positive experience by providing praise and support

\*Be sure your child knows your expectations (where should homework be done and when)

\*Do not do their homework for them, but instead guide them back to where examples are or the paragraph the information is found in.

Children have one day to make up assignments for every day they have an excused absence. See St. Mary's handbook for further information. Students will NOT be given assignments prior to vacations.



## Respect - Our Guiding Principle

The guiding principle for our classroom is Respect. Showing respect is important at all times, and it helps make school a fun and pleasant place for us all.

R- Respect  
E - Each other  
S - Self  
P - Property  
E - Environment  
C - Collaboration  
T - Thoughts



Rules: Treat others the way you would like to be treated!

- Be Ready!
  - \* Be prepared for class: homework completed, notes due, library books need to be at school and supplies need to be ready.
- Be Responsible!
  - \* Use time wisely.
  - \* Never do less than your personal best.
- Be Respectful!
  - \* Listen and follow directions.
  - \* Take care of school supplies and school property.
  - \* Speak kindly to others.
  - \* Be honest.

Students who show RESPECT will be positively rewarded with:

praise      treats      movie      extra recess      homework pass

If a student chooses to be disrespectful, they may be asked to:

take a break fill out a Fix-It Ticket  
visit Mrs. Henke

contact parents  
serve a detention