

St. Francis Academy, Bally
Third Grade Guidelines, 2019-2020 School Year

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Dear Third Grade Parents:

Welcome to third grade! I am looking forward to spending a wonderful, successful year with your children. I am hoping that, by working as a team, we can accomplish many great things and foster an engaging, creative, prayerful and fun-filled learning experience for each of your children. Here are some important things you need to know about our class:

Homework

Each child has a mandatory Planner in which they will be responsible for writing their daily assignments. I will sign or stamp the Planner every afternoon. Keep in mind that the purpose of this is to help keep the lines of communication open regarding what is being taught in class.

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. There usually will be no homework over the weekend unless it is unavoidable. Homework is given to reinforce material learned that day and to foster good study habits.

Homework is due the next day. Absence will be excused; however, the homework must be turned in when the child returns to class. If your child is absent, please arrange for an adult, sibling or friend to take the work home.

It is understood that there are times when not having homework done is excused. Family emergencies or illness are considered excused; however, you must write a note stating this. If your child has no homework and no note, it will be considered unexcused. If you emphasize the importance of homework, then it will become important to your child as well. Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping your child develop good work habits.

Class Rules

Discipline is handled with a positive approach in third grade. The emphasis is on responsibility for one's own behavior and effort. Class rules have been discussed with the children so they know what is expected of them. Positive reinforcement for reaching goals is offered in the form of individual and whole class incentives.

==GRADE 3 GUIDELINES, PG. 2==

Tests

Students are given quizzes or tests periodically throughout the year in every subject. After they are graded and recorded, they will be placed into each student's test folder. Test folders are usually sent home weekly on a Friday. Please sign each test in the test folder and return it with your child by Tuesday of the following week. Failure to return a test folder by Tuesday will result in a note or phone call home. If there is a problem getting the tests signed and returned by Tuesday, please send in a note to the teacher.

Reading

Third grade uses the Scott-Foresman Reading Street series, which includes a variety of materials such as Fresh Reads Reading Comprehension, Levelled Readers, CD-Rom Discs and online components. It encompasses a variety of skills including Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary, Language Arts, Spelling and Grammar.

A Reading Selection Test will be given after each story. A Unit Test will be given after every unit. Book reports or projects count as a Reading Selection Test.

In addition, this year third grade will be reading a different class book each Trimester as part of our schoolwide Literature Program. Our third books will include a biography on Walt Disney, Charlotte's Web and Frindle. Time will be given both in class and at home to read our assigned book for the Trimester. Throughout each Trimester, students will be given quizzes, participate in activities related to the book and towards the end of the Trimester will have a book report to complete on their assigned book.

Language Arts

Handwriting: The Zaner-Bloser handwriting method is utilized in third grade. We will review lowercase cursive and cover uppercase cursive letters and connections.

Spelling: There will be a test every Friday. There will be written homework utilizing the Spelling words.

English Grammar: Grammar is incorporated into both the Reading Street series and Grammar Workbook. Sentence structure, parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation will be reinforced. Skills of editing and proofreading are regularly used in class. Students will also complete Daily Oral Language/Grammar_Maintenance items to improve their skills.

Writing: The Writing program is an important part of our Language Arts program. We will write on a regular basis in our Language Arts Notebook. There will also be a variety of writing pieces completed during the year and saved in each child's writing portfolio.

==GRADE 3 GUIDELINES, PG. 3==

Math

Sadlier's Progress in Mathematics series is used for Math. Every day we do Mad Minutes Maintenance problems to improve our Computation and Problem-Solving Skills. In addition, students complete Math Word Problems on a regular basis throughout the school year, which are saved in the students' Math Problem Solving Folders. Math Homework is given most nights for extra practice and reinforcement of material learned in class. We also use Chrome Book websites to master our Math Concepts, Computation and Problem-Solving Skills.

The emphasis in third grade is on all students knowing their basic facts by heart (i.e. Multiplication Facts) and quickly recalling them. To that end, students are asked to bring in Multiplication Flashcards (0 through 12 times tables) by Friday, September 27th. These Flashcards may be made on Index Cards (Problem on one side, Answer on another side), bought or printed from a Math website. The cards should be sent into school in a Ziplock Bag or Box with your child's name on it. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Religion

In Religion the Christ Our Life, We Believe: New Evangelization Edition book is used. The children will be studying about the early Church and Jesus' early life. We will also be learning about Catholic Christian virtues and how we can spread the Good News of Jesus to all we meet. Learning about the Bible and prayers are other important components of Third Grade Religion class. Finally, we attend Schoolwide Mass every Tuesday, participate in prayer services, pray the Rosary and discuss the Sunday Mass Readings in class every Friday.

Science

The Interactive Science series is used in 3rd grade. Curriculum to be covered emphasizes the Scientific Process, Earth Science, Physical Science and Chemistry. There will be quizzes and tests given. The students will engage in hands-on learning activities and homework assignments will be given. In addition, this year the school has a new STEM Lab (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and 3rd grade will be using it on weekly basis.

Social Studies

The Harcourt-Brace Social Studies: Communities series is used in 3rd grade. Students will be studying maps, communities, products, resources and holidays. Current Events will also be used in our classroom activities. Quizzes and tests will be given and homework assigned.

If you have any questions, please contact me and I will respond as promptly as possible. I look forward to a happy, productive and successful school year with you and your child. God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ,