

## Third Grade Information



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Dear Parents,

This is my second year teaching and I am so excited to spend it with your child! I graduated from Rockhurst University in May 2010 where I earned my Masters of Arts in Elementary Education. I spent last year here at St. Peter's teaching third grade and am thrilled to return for my second year. Over the summer my husband and I welcomed our first child, Andrew, into our family. It has been a busy, exciting summer, and I am looking forward to returning to school to get to know a new group of third graders!

The following information covers some procedures, requirements, goals, and other topics that will be helpful to you and your child throughout third grade.

**Home Folder:** Your child's Home Folder will go home with them each night and should be returned to school the next day. In this folder you will find any homework or notes to be sent home. You may also use this folder to send notes to school for me. Homework will be assigned 4 days a week. It should take approximately 45 minutes to finish any assignments, practice math facts, read for 20 minutes, and study spelling words. Homework will be due the following day unless otherwise noted in the student's planner. If your child has incomplete or unacceptable assignments, these will also need to be completed for the following day.

**Monday Folder:** This folder will go home with your child each Monday and will be returned to school each Tuesday. In this folder you will find your child's weekly work. There will be a sheet attached to the inside for you to sign, indicating that you have reviewed its contents. Reviewing this work closely will help prepare you and your child when it comes time for report cards. There

should be no surprises about your child's grades if you are consistently reviewing what comes home in the Monday Folder.

**Assignment Notebook/Planner:** Your child will write assignments and reminders in his/her planner each night. They will also write their weekly spelling words in the space provided. Please check this every night. I will sign off each day indicating that I have looked at it.

**Attendance:** When your child is sick please keep him/her at home. When possible, please send me an email letting me know why your child is absent and for how long. I will do my best to get any absent work put together and sent home with a sibling, or I will leave it in the office for you to pick up at the end of the day. If you go on vacation during the school year, I am happy to put together a packet of assignments but I need at least **one week notice**. If you plan on taking your child to an appointment during the day, please send a note with him/her or send me an email that morning. I will send anything he/she needs to complete when he/she leaves for the day. When your child is going home with someone other than the regular assigned person, please let me know!

**Birthdays:** Please let me know a few days in advance if you would like to bring a snack to school to celebrate your child's birthday. Do not send uncut cakes, cookie cakes, or drinks. The best treats are individual, such as a cookie, cupcake, granola bar, fruit roll-up, etc. These are much easier to pass out and clean up. Napkins are appreciated as well. Please send the snack in the morning if possible so I can plan accordingly. We have 18 students in our class. If your child's birthday is over the summer, we can celebrate on his/her half birthday.

**Water Bottles:** Your student may bring a non-glass water bottle to school filled with water only. It must be taken home every night to be cleaned and refilled.

**Snacks:** A small, nutritious snack may be brought to enjoy at morning recess. Good snacks are crackers, pretzels, fruit, granola bars, etc. Please **DO NOT** send candy with your student as a snack.

**Reading:** We will read novels as well as other selections chosen by myself or from our anthology. Your student will work in partners, small groups, and as a whole group. Skills we will be focusing on include monitoring comprehension,

making connections, questioning, inferring, visualizing, determining importance, and synthesizing. Your student will use the *Accelerated Reader* program as well. Each quarter I will assign a number of points and the range of book levels that your student is expected to read. For the third and fourth quarter, our focus will shift from a point system to reading a variety of genres. More information will be sent home as necessary.

**Spelling:** Your student's spelling words each week will be based on phonetic patterns. On Monday, your student will write the words in his/her planner and will be expected to study each night. Tests will be given on Friday.

**Writing/Language Arts:** This year we will work on our writing a lot! We will use *Writer's Workshop* when composing text which includes phases such as brainstorming, drafting, editing/revising, final draft, and publishing. I will work with your child on proper writing conventions such as capitalization, punctuation, spacing, proper format, and spelling. We will use several writing formats including journals, letters, paragraphs, poetry, and stories.

**Science:** We will begin the year by studying weather. We will also cover topics such as states of matter, the sun, moon, and solar system, and Earth's natural features. Students will learn how to find information in their textbooks and will be challenged with experiments and critical thinking questions.

**Social Studies:** Topics we will cover include our communities, The Constitution, the three branches of government, goods and services, different types of resources, and maps. I will use our social studies program as well as supplemental resources to cover these topics.

**Math:** We will cover addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, time, money, graphs, and some geometry. A huge focus in third grade is learning basic math facts. I expect your child to know their addition and subtraction facts fairly quickly and accurately to start the year. As the year progresses, we will learn multiplication and division facts. There will be timed tests over these and I expect them to study their facts nightly. It is essential that they learn these quickly and accurately by the end of third grade.

**Religion:** This year our theme involves the Holy Family. We will stress that our classroom is a family and the St. Peter's community is our family as well. We will discuss what we can learn from each of our families. We will start the year by

studying various life skills and learn how to apply these in our daily lives. We will work out of our *We Believe* textbooks and will also supplement by studying several saints and their feast days. Topics focused on include the parts of the Mass, the sacraments, Holy Days of Obligation, and the Circle of Grace program.

**Forgot It Table:** If your child ever forgets something (i.e. lunch or homework) it is the school policy that you will simply leave it on the “Forgot It” table in the main lobby. Your child will be given a chance to check the table later for anything he/she has forgotten at home. I hesitate to allow students to call home throughout the day for forgotten items because I know that parents have busy schedules. However, if your child forgets something vital to their success for the day, I will allow them to call home.

**Final Thoughts:** If you have any concerns or are wondering why something is happening, please feel free to call, drop me a note, or email me at any time. However, please realize that I may not be able to respond to your inquiry immediately. The quickest way to reach me is by email, but sometimes I am not able to check that until the end of the day. I welcome all concerns, ideas, and feedback that affect your child or our classroom. If something is not working, I am more than willing to talk. Please stay tuned in to what your child is studying at school as well as his/her behavior at home. Keep me informed of anything that may affect their behavior or performance at school, socially or academically. I look forward to watching your child grow and mature throughout the year. Here’s to a great third grade year!

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