



September 2009

Dear Parents,

We would like to keep you informed as we journey along with your child through third grade. We are looking forward to a wonderful year and hope to help every child accomplish a great deal. At this time we would like to take the opportunity to pass on some important information regarding our classroom schedules, procedures, and events.

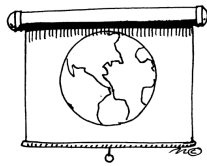
Math - The major reason for studying mathematics is to learn how to solve problems. To become effective problem solvers, students need to first understand the concepts, know the basic facts, know how to use computation skills, and apply appropriate problem solving strategies. We will accomplish this through the use of manipulatives, extensive practice and encouraging students to share their problem solving solutions with others. We try instilling a positive attitude toward Math. We will begin the year with a review of addition and subtraction through 18. THIS MUST BE MASTERED. If your child struggles with simple math concepts, please review nightly. We review fact families, three addends, and choosing operations for simple word problems. Then our focus moves on to place value to the thousands place. After that we will cover addition and subtraction of 2,3, and 4 digit numbers with regrouping. Subtraction with middle zero is also covered at that time. By mid to late January, the children will begin to cover multiplication and division. The children will learn all the facts through 12. We will also introduce geometry, fractions, and measurement throughout the year.

Reading - We use a reader published by Scott Foresman. During reading, we incorporate lessons in phonics, vocabulary, oral/silent reading skills, comprehension, spelling, and creative writing. Each child has a Practice workbook that combines many of these skills together in a related sequence. Our Reading series allows for enrichment. We also hope to incorporate novels that we will read together in class.



English - In 3rd grade we use a hardcover text for learning grammar. We begin the year with reviewing sentence structure and different kinds of sentences. We then move on and investigate the simple parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs). We continually work through the year improving our writing of stories, poems, and letters. We will cover the use of descriptive words in paragraphs, and how to write a simple informative research report.

Spelling/Phonics - Each week your child will receive a new spelling list containing 15 words and 5 challenge words. Every Friday a Spelling test will be given on these new words. We also review phonics skills in collaboration with Reading and Spelling.



Science\Social Studies Science and Social Studies will be taught during each trimester, however they will not be taught at the same time. We will begin with a Science unit and when completed, we will move on to a unit in S.S. We will continue with this format for the duration of the year. In Science we will be studying living/nonliving things, matter, energy, and simple machines. In Social Studies, the students will be studying geography and communities past and present. We will end the year with a unit of study on the great City of Chicago. We will follow up this unit with a fieldtrip downtown. A number of different projects will be assigned this year. The children will have an opportunity to use the computer lab to assist them with research.

Religion - The goal of our religion program in 3rd grade is to learn and understand more about our Catholic faith and values. We will discuss family living, our respect for life, and its relationship to our world. Bible stories and teachings of Jesus will also be explored. We will also talk about how we must take responsibility for our actions and respect all God's creatures and His family. In addition to our class discussions we will be learning new prayers and

attend Mass. We will continue to celebrate the religious seasons.

Handwriting Cursive writing has been introduced in 2nd grade: therefore in 3rd grade we will review all letters and formations from now until the end of school year. Our goal is to have all 3rd graders writing in cursive the last few months of the school year in at least 2 subject areas. Practice at home is encouraged.

Homework The homework assignments your child brings home each night is an important part of his or her education. Homework provides students with opportunities to:

1. Develop good study habits.
2. Practice new skills
3. Discover how well they understand what has been taught
4. Extend their learning to new tasks
5. Learn to manage their time and plan ahead
6. Develop independence and a sense of responsibility

In order for students to do their homework consistently and accurately, they need to keep track of their assignment notebook (Student Planner) each day. It is necessary for us to help your child develop a habit of using this tool.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR CHILD'S ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOK EACH NIGHT AND SIGN IT. When homework is incomplete you will be notified through your child's student planner. If your child misses 4 assignments in a single subject area their grade will be affected. The 3rd grade teachers will be checking these notebooks regularly. Learning does not end when your child leaves school. We need your help in your child's learning and development. We hope that homework does not become a chore. It should be a time to practice what has been taught in school. Please do not hesitate to tell one of the teachers if there are any homework -related problems. **Outside of formal homework, your child should be reading 15-20 minutes nightly.**

Accelerated Reader Each reading teacher has assigned a specific number of reading tests to be taken each trimester. Accelerated reading tests are taken in the library before or after school, library time, and in the classroom if there is a free time.

Accelerated Math Your child will be using the Accelerated Math Computer program in class. The program helps teachers manage students' mathematics learning by printing and

scoring individualized math assignments and tests and reporting results. Your child will be working at his/her own pace and math level. Your child will be taking a series of practice tests. After these practice tests have been mastered, your child will then take a test on the objectives that were practiced. These objectives go along with what is being taught in class. This program will supplement our 3rd grade math curriculum. Please take the time to review the Accelerated Math reports that go home on Friday with your child. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher.

Discipline - The discipline policy this year is based on a Demerit/Detention system. The students have been told how the program works and you will always be informed when a discipline problem arises. We appreciate your support in all disciplinary actions.

Specials

Monday-Computer

Tuesday-Art\Library

Wednesday-Keyboarding

Thursday -Gym

Friday - Music

In conclusion, we are very excited about this school year. We know that there will be growth and change in your child this year. Please be sure to review the Friday Folder each week with your child. It is the best method to monitor your child's progress. Also be sure to check out our third grade blogs for weekly information. So far the kids have shown us that they are an enthusiastic and happy group of children. We are looking forward to getting to know them better. If there is ever a problem or concern by you or your child, please do not hesitate to write us a note or contact us via email. Thank you in advance for all of your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Teachers

Gail Burn

Sally Caulfield

Therese Regnier

