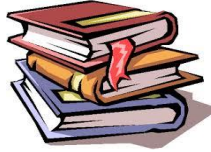


August 2016



## ***Welcome to Third Grade!***

### **Year at a Glance and Curriculum Overview**

**Language Arts:** We will be using the *Journeys* program, along with other materials, to help your child master the third-grade requirements.

The *Journeys* program materials incorporate spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension strategies, along with writing.

**Most importantly, we will build Reading Comprehension skills** as we introduce strategies to help your child.

**Spelling-** Children will work with a specific list of words each week. A test will be given on this list of words and three sentences each Friday. Bonus words, which will be taken from something we have discussed in class, will also be included.

**Semester One:** Lessons 1 – 10

**Semester Two:** Lessons 11 - 21

**Vocabulary-** Each week we will introduce a group of new vocabulary words that correspond with our reading story and/or AR read aloud. I will also be supplementing with the ***Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop*** textbook beginning in September.

**Writing** - We will begin writing in journals so that each child may become comfortable expressing his or her ideas in written form. This also allows opportunities to practice correct letter formation, grammar, and punctuation skills. We will emphasize nouns, verbs, and adjectives along with adverbs and correct sentence structure as we progress through the year.

Children will explore the writing process, as well, as they write a draft, revise, edit, and finally publish their written work.

In addition, students will use **expository writing** to discuss and take positions on a variety of issues and ideas. Students will respond to questions about the text, using evidence from text to support their answers.

**Reading with your Child** - I ask your support in helping your child **read for 20 minutes each night**. You may have your child read independently or have your child read to you. Grandparents or other care givers may also read with your child. When you read with your child you reinforce the message that reading is an essential skill.

Reading at home helps your child expand his or her sight word vocabulary while building fluency. Once children are fluent readers, reading is no longer a chore; it becomes their most valuable tool! This reading may be recorded on the weekly Third Grade Reading Log.

**Semester One:** Units 1 – 3

**Semester Two:** Units 4 – 6

### AR Points/AR Information

In order for you to stay informed of the points your child is getting, they will be bringing an AR folder home each Tuesday night. In the AR folder the name of the books your child has read, the grades they have made on the AR tests, and the points received will all be written in the folder. **Please sign each Tuesday that you are aware of the AR points your child has attained.** This should help us to make sure the students are meeting the required points for the dates given. Following the required number of points on these dates will ensure that the students receive their 75 points by May 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for helping me to encourage your child to read this year.

**Math** – We will explore 3 and 4 digit numbers using addition and subtraction (with regrouping). We will estimate to solve problems in our head and we will work with place value and the value of coins and bills. We will understand and apply multiplication and division. We will also investigate capacity and measurement as well. **Most importantly, we will use problem solving strategies (understand, plan, solve, check) in the execution of word problems requiring one or two steps.** Reading skills will be applied in this area of math as well.

*McGraw-Hill – My Math – Grade 3 – Volume 1 & Volume 2*

#### **Semester One – Chapters 1-7**

- Chapter 1 – Place Value
- Chapter 2 – Addition
- Chapter 3 – Subtraction
- Chapter 4 – Understand Multiplication
- Chapter 5 – Understand Division
- Chapter 6 – Multiplication & Division Patterns
- Chapter 7 – Multiplication & Division

#### **Semester Two – Chapters 8-14**

- Chapter 8 – Apply Multiplication & Division
- Chapter 9 – Properties & Equations
- Chapter 10 – Fractions
- Chapter 11 – Measurement
- Chapter 12 – Represent & Interpret Data
- Chapter 13 – Perimeter & Area
- Chapter 14 – Geometry

**Key new skills this year include multiplication and division of 2-digit numbers with and without remainders along with fractions.** We will begin by using hands-on math manipulatives to create sets visually and enhance understanding. Quizzes and tests will include work with multiplication tables up to and including 12x12. **This process requires much practice at home in addition to the work that will be completed in class!**

**Math enrichment and technology skills will be incorporated with the RM City Program** on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week.

**Science** - The science program includes hands-on activities that will explore matter (solids, liquids, and gases), lifecycles, Earth's resources, planets and living things. A third grade favorite is found in our unit on SPACE as we explore the planets in our solar system, create the phases of the moon with OREOS, and create a presentation with a 3D poster of the planet your child has researched. The hands-on activities that are part of this program aid your child with self-discovery as they make connections to the scientific world around them.

**Science – A Closer Look – First Semester – August – December**

- Scientific Method
- Earth Changes
- Using Earth's Resources
- Planets, Moons and Stars
- Observing Matter
- Living Things Grow & Change
- Living Things in Ecosystems

**Social Studies** – In social studies we will be using a brand new textbook this year, ***My World Social Studies, Building Our Communities***. It comes with a student textbook that is a consumable. We will look at important symbols, economic decisions, and trade, along with important people, places, and history. We will explore the government, rules, and laws as well.

**Chapter Outline – Second Semester - January – May**

- Chapter One – Our Communities
- Chapter Two – Our Environment
- Chapter Three – Communities Build a Nation
- Chapter Four – U.S. Government
- Chapter Five – Citizenship
- Chapter Six – A Growing Nation
- Chapter Seven – Working in Our Communities



**Homework** – As mentioned above, homework will be given daily from Monday-Thursday. There will be occasions when it is unavoidable to assign homework or studying over the weekend.

Children will be asked to write down the homework assignments on their assignment sheet in their blue folder. **Please initial your child's assignment sheet each evening to confirm that all assignments have been completed as assigned.**

If your child is absent, he or she should make up any missed homework the next day. Please contact me if there are any extenuating circumstances so that we can help your child stay up-to-date with assignments.

**Class Newsletter** - On Friday of each week I will send home a **Class Newsletter** to each family, which list the activities or learning skills that we will cover in class starting on Monday. The **Class Newsletter** will also contain “reminders” about upcoming events, so please take a moment to read it.

**Take-Home –Folder** – Each child will have a blue **Take-Home-Folder**. This folder will serve as a daily communication tool between the classroom and home. Daily notices, and notes will be placed in this folder each day. **I ask that you thoroughly check this folder each night.** If you have notes for me, please place them in the folder and I will check the folder in class each day. On **Fridays** each child will bring home a red **Good News Folder** with important information from the office and/or the teacher.

**Information** - I hope this information is helpful. Although it may seem overwhelming at first, it is intended to make the transition to third grade easier!

I will be sending home additional information as we transition to the activities mentioned in the **Year at a Glance** and detailed information will be included in the **Class Newsletter**.

**Contact Information**-Please contact me at any time during the year with any questions or concerns that you may have. You may send a note in with your child, phone the office at school or e-mail me at [jchumchal@stj Catholicschool.com](mailto:jchumchal@stj Catholicschool.com).