Welcome to 3rd Grade!

Dear Third Grade Parents/Guardians,

Hello and welcome to the 2016/2017 Academic School Year as parents/guardians of third graders! My name is Miss. Scanlon and I will be your child’s third grade teacher. I have lived in the Chicagoland area my whole life and graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education with focuses in Language Arts and Science and also have a Minor as a Reading Teacher. I currently reside in Naperville and have an older sister who is a Spanish teacher at Saints Peter and Paul, a younger sister that is a sophomore at Illinois State University as well as a younger brother who is in the 7th grade at Saints Peter and Paul School. This will be my second year at Saint Isidore and I am honored to be working at such a wonderful school. I am also delighted to have your child in my classroom and am looking forward to getting to know him/her, as well as all of you.

I have very high expectations for each of my students and believe that an effective classroom is one in which students feel as part of a community. This community involves each student having their own role and responsibility. I believe that classroom community can be achieved through communication as well as sharing and learning about each of our own families, cultures, interests, learning styles, hopes, and dreams. As third graders, my goals include that students become more independent by being able to make good decisions, staying on task, working effectively, and that students come to class ready to learn each day. As part of this community, I will demonstrate my role as a teacher in providing the skills your child needs to order to obtain the knowledge through a variety of methods, including hands on activities, collaborated learning, and proper materials that reinforce the chance for students to uncover and compose a world full of knowledge. Lastly, my job this year is to ensure that each of your children succeeds in third grade to reach their fullest potential, that they are motivated and engaged, and that they take pride and ownership in their education as well as communication with you throughout your child’s journey to personal achievement. This is going to be a wonderful year and with your help we will have a successful third grade year!

In order for every child to succeed in our classroom, there are a few rules that need to be followed:

1. Listen when others are speaking
2. Following directions, especially the first time given
3. That students stay on task and work efficiently in completing their work
4. That students respect everyone and everything in our room (hands, feet, and objects to self)
5. That students have a “can do” attitude (students try their hardest, do their best work, and take pride in what they do)

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:**

In our classroom, we will use a behavior system, in addition to our school wide PBIS behavior system. In order to have an effective classroom, the rules listed above will be reviewed frequently. Each student will have four cards (green, yellow, blue, red) on our “How is our day?” board. Every day, students will start the day on green, meaning “Way to Go, keep up the good work”. Students will change their card each time one of the classroom rules is broken. YELLOW indicates a simple warning to watch their behavior and review the class rules, BLUE indicates that they have already had a warning and they will then sit out of recess for 5 minutes to self-reflect, and RED indicates that a minor will be issued and parents will be contacted to discuss what we can do to solve these problems. After three minors, a major is issued and an after school detention will be served.

Some situations may arise which warrant more aggressive action. In this case, a minor or major may be given with changing cards. This type of behavior is rarely seen, but can occur. I hope that all students can act with appropriate and respectful behavior to limit minors/majors.

Once a card is changed, they stay on that color for the rest of the day; however the next day, students will all return on green. At the end of the day, students indicate which color they were on in their assignment notebook and a very short (one to three words) explanation for why their card was changed. Because students will have their assignment notebooks signed every night, parents are always aware of what is occurring in the classroom (behavior wise) on a daily basis.

On the other hand, if students demonstrate our class rules throughout the day, they will be rewarded an **EPIC TICKET.** These are similar to the “C.A.R. bucks” that are rewarded for Positive Behavior throughout the school. Car bucks and Epic tickets will be rewarded interchangeably within the classroom. Epic Tickets will be collected and there will be a drawing every Friday and one child in the classroom will get to choose a prize from the class treasure basket.

**SCHOOL BEHAVIOR**

This year the entire school will be continuing to use the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS). Christian Behavior Matrix is used with the appropriate behaviors expected from every student in school in different occasions inside and outside the building. Our CARS motto for this program will be in full force from the start of school until the end. The staff and students are excited to continue with this matrix. The students will continue to be rewarded with a “car buck” for POSITIVE BEHAVIOR. At the end of each school day, the “car bucks” that have been received will go to the office. There will be weekly drawing for winners from grades one through four. The basket of prizes will include a wide variety of things to choose from.

Our school has also adopted the motto “Give it. Get it. Expect Respect”. We are working towards empowering our students to be confident, self-assured and respectable. We will be encouraging our students to mode behavior that is appropriate. This will work hand in hand with the PBIS program.

**GRADES**

Third Grade is a big year academically. Your child will be introduced to many new concepts in all subject areas. The students will be given more independence, responsibility, and materials to learn. Each student is responsible for their behavior and grades. Grades are not handed out, they are earned.

Grades are a combination of in-class activities, individual projects, group projects, quizzes, tests, writing prompts, chapter tests, and participation will be used to formulate a grade for each subject. Midterm reports will be given out in the middle of the quarter for students who have a 1 or 2 in any subject or if behavior needs improvement. Four report cards will be given at the end of each quarter as well.

**HOMEWORK**

Students will have homework daily. The average amount of homework for a third is between 45 minutes to one hour (not including studying for tests and quizzes). ALL homework is listed in their assignment notebook. Homework is always due the next day unless otherwise indicated. Students write their homework in their assignment notebook in the morning as part of their bellwork and then our teacher’s helper for the week will read the assignments for homework at the end of the day. I do my best to walk around and check assignment notebooks and that they have all of their textbooks and notebooks needed at the end of the day, but it is the students’ responsibility to copy down the assignments on a daily basis.

Homework counts as completed or not completed; I feel that homework is practice for the skill leaned in class. I expect the students to try their best and complete all assignments. I feel that mistakes are owed on homework and a student should not suffer because they have not mastered the skill yet. This is why I quiz and test the students. Students should complete homework on their OWN first and then parents may check or aid in help after students have attempted first. Because homework is not a grade, I strongly suggest students practicing the skill on their own because there is no penalty.

When returning homework, students will sometimes see a **check plus, check, or check minus.** These are NOT grades, but as a way to indicate that I have checked the homework and seen which mistakes students have made. A CHECK PLUS indicates students have only made zero, one, or sometimes two errors and feel comfortable with this concept. A CHECK indicates that students have made three or four errors and still need assistance and review with the concept. A CHECK MINUS indicates that students have made many errors and need a reteach of the concept and repeated support to relearn the concept. Again, these are not a grade but as a way for me to see how well students understood the concept and if reteach is necessary as well as for you and your child to see what concepts were easy/more difficult for your child.

There are some assignments that will be graded according to the (4,3,2,1) and it will be stated ahead of time, such as the end of the chapter Math Review or some review Guides.

**Missing Homework/”Yikes” Slip**

Because homework increases in third grade as well as tests and quizzes, it is important that students stay on top of their assignments and practice staying organized, which includes writing assignments in their notebook every night, making sure they have their things needed to go home, completing the homework to the best of their ability, and then returning it the next day. When students forget to bring home an assignment, do not complete an assignment, forget to return an assignment, or turn in messy/little effort assignments, a “yikes” slip will be given. A “yikes” slip is filled out by the student (name, date, what the assignment is). Students then need to have this signed by a parent/guardian and then returned the next day along with the assignment that was missing.If more than three assignments are missing in a week, a “study skills” minor is given.

Curriculum

READING: The reading series will be LEAD 21 a product by McGraw Hill. The students will have one theme reader. The students will also have additional resources that reinforce reading skills, vocabulary, comprehension, and phonics skills for each unit. Along with the theme reader, we use novel studies. The students will be reading books as a class via read aloud, teacher read aloud, choral reading, and audio book. Skills and strategies will be studied throughout the novel as well as completing group and individual projects. After each novel, quizzes will be given. In order for your child to do well on these quizzes, they must pay attention during class, read the correct pages when asked, study vocabulary words, and review the novel.

GUIDED READING: This year the students will be participating in a guided reading program. This program will start at the end of September. Guided reading or literacy stations are an instructional approach that involves the teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviors and can all read similar levels of texts. The text is easy enough for students to read with the teacher’s skillful support. The text offers challenges and opportunities for problem solving, but is at a level for students to read with fluency. Guided Reading groups will consist of around 5-7 students and will work solely with the teacher for 20-30 minutes, while the rest of the class rotates through reading stations, such as Self Selected Reading, Working with Words, Vocabulary, Writer’s Desk, Independent Practice of the skills learned that day, etc. More information will be discussed.

SPELLING: Our spelling curriculum is Scott Foresman. Students will be given a spelling pre test on Monday that will determine their spelling list. students will receive a spelling packet on Monday that they are to work on throughout the week for homework. They can choose to do one page a day or three pages in one day. I like to give the students a choice and to schedule their spelling homework accordingly around after school activities, etc.; however the entire spelling packet will be due on Friday. Every Friday, a Spelling test will be given. If there is no school on Friday, the test will be given on Thursday unless indicated otherwise.

ENGLISH: The curriculum is taught through using a textbook as well as integrating into other subject areas. Weekly, the students will complete morning activities that may include Daily Oral Language (D.O.L), Daily Analogies (D.A.), and Daily Geography (D.G.). These exercises are completed in class and in their notebook to reinforce mechanics, spelling, grammar, and other conventions. Writing is a big part of third grade English. We will be integrating the 6+ 1 Traits of Writing into our English/Grammar Class. Students will be creating stories, using figurative language, creating poems, and forming complex sentences and paragraphs. ﻿​

MATH: Mrs. Conte and I will be teaching Math in two small, homogenously selected groups. By having smaller groups, we can better meet the needs of the students. This will be the third year using this textbook. The publisher is McGraw/Hill and was composed after the Common Core of Mathematics was developed. Each group has the same curriculum taught similarly. Timed Tests will be given to every student for assistance in fact mastery. Tests are to be mastered through the year. All timed tests have 20 problems, which must be answered correctly in 60 seconds. The breakdown of the Timed Tests is found below at the bottom of the page.

​SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES: These subjects will be taught interchangeably through the year. This allows for more information to be covered throughout the year. Social Studies will be taught quarters 2 and 4, while Science will be taught quarters 1 and 3. This year during Social Studies, the students will discover the different types of communities throughout the United States, immigration, heritage, culture/holidays, early explorers and early colonization in the United States, trade, producers and consumers, and the levels of government at the local, state, and national level. During Social Studies, geography will be imbedded through "daily geography" mini lessons to begin our social studies class. In Science, students will be investigating living and nonliving things, vertebrates/invertebrates, types of biomes and ecosystems, inherited and non-inherited traits, fossils, solar system (seasons, rotation and revolution, planets, constellation, phases of the moon), forces, and simple machines. Students will participate in experiments, go on field trips, investigate and carry out experiments, and use technology to further enhance curriculum.

RELIGION: Our consumable book for Religion is Our Sunday Visitor: Call to Faith series. The students will be completing chapters in the book, along with doing projects, and understanding and memorizing prayers. We change our religion class and afternoon prayers to learn and understand many prayers including the Nicene Creed, the Angelus, the Saint Michael the Archangel prayer, as well as prayers/responses used during mass. Chapter tests will be given; usually weekly. All the chapter and unit tests are OPEN BOOK. We will also be using "Good News" weekly magazines every Friday to discuss the Sunday Gospel and better prepare and understand how the Gospel connects to our lives prior to Sunday Mass.

**CHOIR:** When your child is in Music/Arts as their special, they will be part of the school’s choir for Mass every Wednesday. Every child is expected to sing and participate in the Mass. Singing is a form of praying. This participation will be part of their Religion grade as well as their music grade.

**FIELD TRIPS:** I will be planning two to three field trips this school year. Once the dates are set, I will send home the information.

**SPECIALS:** Your child has ‘specials’ daily. They will be taught the eighth period of the day. Art and Music is taught my Mrs. Leix. Physical Education and Health and Wellness is taught by Mrs. Butler. A P.E. uniform and gym shoes are required and are to be worn on all P.E. days. Our class will have computers as part of their specials schedule. Half of the students will go to computers while the other half will be with Mrs. Leix. This will switch every quarter. If your child is absent on a day that they attend computers, it is their responsibility to talk with Mrs. Newkirk and schedule a lunch session. The schedule of their “specials” is attached.

**LIBRARY:** Our class has library with Mrs. Yearly every Tuesday. In order to check out a book, the student has to return their book from the previous week.

**THURSDAY ENVELOPES:** Every Thursday, students will be sent home with a brown envelop with any office communications. This packet must returned the next day.

**TARDIES:** Our policy states five unexcused tardy slips result in an after school detention.

**ABSENT WORK:** The student’s daily assignments will be collected and written down on an assignment notebook page throughout the day. Homework will be available for delivery to a sibling, neighbor, or for pickup at the end of the school day ONLY if a request is made by the parent. If no request is made, the student will pick up their school work when they return. It is highly suggested, if possible to arrange for homework to be sent home or picked up. It benefits the child to have their work as soon as possible. Students who return from an absence with have as many days to make up their work as they were absent. Students returning from absences will complete tests/quizzes in “late work lunch” upstairs in the 7th grade room during lunch and recess. This is considered a working lunch so that students do not miss any more instruction time.

**BATHROOM BREAKS:** Third grade takes TWO bathroom breaks: one in the morning around 9:30 and one in the afternoon around 12:30. Any student is allowed to go to the bathroom during lunch or recess as long as they ask the adult in charge. In addition, one boy and one girl are allowed to use the restroom at a time any time during the day after direct instruction (during independent work). Students must sign out using our “out of the room” magnets as well as take the boy/girl pass.

**SNACK:** Students eat a snack at 9:30am every day. Snacks should be small, nutritious, and ready to eat. I do not allow cholate, cookies, or chip type items.

**WATER BOTTLES:** Students are allowed to have a water bottle in MY classroom only. I prefer a reusable one. We put students’ water bottle on the ledge due to lots of spills in the past. The water bottle is to be filled with water only. Please do not send it with juice, milk, or any added flavors.

**BIRTHDAYS:** Every child is allowed to bring in a treat for their birthday. However, I ask that no drinks be brought in. Please keep in mind any food allergies that might be present in our classroom. If your child has a birthday in a summer month, we will celebrate them in the school year. If your child’s birth is in JUNE, JULY, or AUGUST: let me know a day that your child would like to celebrate their birthday. I recommend celebrating summer birthdays earlier than later, as I have found in the past that we end up scrambling to have enough days for everyone to have their own day at the end of the year.

CONTACT INFO

Class Website: [www.missscanlon.weebly.com](http://www.missscanlon.weebly.com)

School Email: margaretscanlon@saintisidoreschool.org

Remind App: <https://www.remind.com/join/missscanlon?utm_medium=android>

2016-2017 Class List

(subject to change)

Alyza Adajar

Luke Davis

Michael Fierro

Kiarra Irawan

Rachel Jones

Mary Kolozsy

Jivonni Leix

Alessandro Leone

Haley Lim

Alexis Olson

Daniel Mahoney

Aiden McFadden

Alida McHugh

Isabella Medina

Ashley Powell

Nella Robak

Paul Rodriguez

Bianca Sanchez

Josie Smith

Kerri Thoms

Izabella Webb

Emma Webster
Sam Zalak

Merri Zepeda

Please sign and return this page after reading Miss Scanlon’s 3rd Grade Parent Letter. Please return by to ensure that any questions you have I can answer at Curriculum Night on .

Child’s Name:

Parent Signature:

Date:

Please write any questions, concerns, or comments that you may have below.