

Welcome to Third Grade!

Dear Parents,

The beginning of the school year is off to a wonderful start. The energy level is high and everyone seems excited and happy to be back.

I am your child's new teacher Ms. Maria Mank and I am very pleased to be teaching third grade this year. I am an alumna of St. John's and am happy to have been passed the torch to be part of the talented faculty at St. John's school.

I received my B.A. in Humanities with an emphasis in Multicultural Studies from Dominican University and am completing my certification this fall in the Credential program at Santa Clara University.

I have worked with kids in various venues for over 16 years and look forward to spending many more in the classroom teaching.

Over the summer several projects were completed here at St. John's. Among those fabulous upgrades, was a beautiful new tile floor in our classroom as well as a beautiful new fence and gate on the San Pablo yard.

There are so many opportunities for your children to grow and learn in third grade. I look forward to being a vital part of that growing for your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have or stop in after school for a chat. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

-Ms. Mank

School and 3rd Grade Student Learning Expectations

We are Christian Leaders who:

- Live our faith
- Study our religions traditions and teachings
- Participate in liturgy
- Live by Jesus' example and show compassion and understanding for all God's people and creation

We are Academic Achievers who:

- Excel academically
- Are prepared for the challenges of high school and beyond
- Do our best every day
- Learn inside and outside the classroom
- Share our learning and help each other learn
- Are confident
- Communicate clearly, openly, and honestly

We are Responsible Citizens who:

- Are active in our community and in our world
- Are connected by faith, family, friends, and community
- Celebrate diversity
- Respect all people
- Are courteous and thoughtful
- Meet deadlines and arrive on time
- Work to make our world a better place through prayer and action.

This year we will continue to incorporate our Student Learning Expectations into

Welcome Back!

our classroom and our curriculum.

Our main goal is to give the children opportunities to achieve their learning potential and become responsible individuals. However, in order not to waste valuable teaching and learning time, it is important that the Saint John's Learning Expectations are adhered to.

Classroom Business

Tardy Students

Please have your child in school on time. When children are late, the entire class is disrupted and your child misses out on valuable learning time.

Homework & Assignments

You are an essential part of your children's formal education and your help at home is needed in many ways. Monday through Thursday nights your children will have homework. Each day they will bring home an assignment sheet with specific assignments written down. All homework papers and the assignment sheet must be signed and returned the next day. Please assist your children if help is

longer than 45 minutes to one hour to complete homework assignments.

In addition to this work, your children will be expected to read and record all of his or her number of pages read nightly. This is due with the "Read to Succeed" calendar where they have recorded the total number of all book pages they have read for that month. Special projects throughout the year will require some parental assistance and advance information will be sent home when necessary. This program will be explained on Back to School Night.

Friday Papers

Corrected papers will go home on Friday. Please sign and return the top sheet by Monday. If your child is missing any item in this pack of papers, please ask your child why it is missing. If I have not received the item, your child will receive no credit for this assignment.

Late Papers

Late papers are not accepted unless your child had an excused absence or you have made arrangements with me prior to this happening.

Behavior

We adhere to strict

in the St. John's handbook. Whenever necessary, a yellow behavior slip may be in the homework folder to notify you of behavior problems that need attention. Please sign and return that form. I am very available and encourage communication. Let the office know whenever you would like me to give you a call.

Field Trips & Class Events

School events will be announced for all special events in Tuesday envelopes. Class fieldtrips and special class events will be sent home in the homework folders for you to see or sign and return. Special parties are planned for Halloween, Christmas, Valentines Day and the end of the year celebration. If you would like to help out, please feel free to contact our third grade room parents.

We generally arrange approximately two fieldtrips each year and will need your help to chaperone and drive. The dates and sign-up sheet will be given to you when the dates are confirmed.

If you are interested in helping in any of these future events please see the driver's permission slip and insurance forms in your packet. Please fill these out so that we may keep them on record in the office if and when you sign up

Parents

I invite you to sign up for any PPP hours in the classroom. You can sign up to come in and help with our special event potlucks or to simply sign up for any school sponsored events. Feel free to sign up with Ms. Patty or me when you are informed of our upcoming events.

Birthdays

Birthdays are very special for the students. We like to make this day special for each child. We encourage small snacks, pre-packed or portioned for each child as to cut back on messes and time. We usually send the kids outside with the birthday treats either right before lunch or before the final bell rings to go home. Please speak to Ms. Patty or me regarding planning for such events.

Read to Succeed

We encourage the love and practice of reading this year. The children will have an opportunity to receive prizes and rewards for the reading that they do outside of school. You will be required to sign off on the monthly calendar and validate the number of pages that they have read. Please see the page on "Read To Succeed" in your Third

Grade packet on Back to School Night.

The FOSS Science Program

This year we will continue our new Science curriculum program with the help of the folks from Lawrence Hall of Science. The faculty has attended regular workshops and training sessions about this curriculum and the kids are extremely enthusiastic about the program.

FOSS stands for Full Option Science System. FOSS is a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. FOSS is also an ongoing research project dedicated to improving the learning and teaching of science. The FOSS project began over 20 years ago during a time of growing concern that our nation was not providing young students with an adequate science education. The FOSS program materials are designed to meet the challenge of providing meaningful science education for all students in diverse American classrooms and to prepare them for life in the 21st century.

Development of the FOSS

program was, and continues to be, guided by advances in the understanding of how youngsters think and learn.

Writer's Workshop

As part of the Language Arts curriculum, I will be working with the students on a new program called "Writer's Workshop." The children will learn how to brainstorm, journal, draft and edit their own writings. These young authors will have a one-on-one with me weekly to have an editing session and further develop their stories before putting it into final draft. Please see the "Writer's Workshop" sheet in your packet.

We encourage family to be a part of our Saint John's community in any way that they can. The third grade is very blessed to have such an active and involved group of parents and I look forward to spending time with all of you.

