

# Third Grade Life 2020

**Warning:** Do not be overwhelmed by all of the following four pages of information. Learning all this information, routines and procedures is a process and we will ease into everything. I will email often the first couple weeks to make sure we all get on the same page. We are also in uncharted territory with Covid all around us, so that puts an extra twist on everything. Despite it all, I am confident that the Lord will give us the strength to endure whatever comes our way **and** I am determined to make sure that within this new normal the love of learning prevails!

## Assignments

Daily homework assignments will be written in the student planners. Homework is designed to *reinforce* daily lessons, and I view it as an opportunity for growth in self-discipline and organizational skills. Your child should not be doing more than 1 hour of homework, and in most cases, time will be allotted during the class day to start and sometimes finish homework. There is no need for homework frustration. Circle any problems that your child had difficulty with and I can address them the next day. You can always email me with concerns.

## Classroom Environment

Our classroom is a non-threatening, fun, safe, Christ-filled, family environment in which your child is encouraged to always do their best. Each student is expected to treat everyone with kindness and respect. We build each other up in here, not tear each other down. There is zero tolerance for drama, unkindness or sass. If your child has a behavioral issue, it will be documented in your child's planner in the "Communication" box. This is located at the bottom of each day in the planner. **No need to sign the communication box every night, just when there is a behavior issue.** If the communication box is empty, you can assume that your child did not have any behavioral issues that day.

## Communication

Our class homepage on the school website is the best way for you to know what is going on in the classroom. The calendar tab on my webpage will have test and project dates as well as any other important information. Weekly emails are sent informing you of what is going on in our classroom. Friday folders are sent home with graded work and other important information. Please look it over with your child, sign and return to school on Monday. I believe parent/teacher communication plays an important role in a child's academic success so please don't hesitate to email me with concerns or questions.

School email is: [erin.brandt@saintmaryschool.net](mailto:erin.brandt@saintmaryschool.net)

School phone #: (850) 243-8913

Classroom webpage: <https://www.saintmaryschool.net/grade-3-brandt>

## Late Work and Illness

If your child is absent, they will have 3 days to complete their make-up work. A red folder will have all missing assignments. This rule only pertains to regular sickness or doctor appointments etc. Anything related to Covid will be handled on a case by case basis. I am here to help your child succeed so we will do what is best at that time for your child.

## Grading

Grading is based on correct completion of work, quizzes, homework, participation, projects, neatness and effort. The grading system is: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60- 69), and F (below 60). If a student receives a poor grade on a test or assignment, the student will have an opportunity to fix and return it for credit. I am a big believer in learning material for life and not just for a test.

## Lunch

Lunch time is 11:50-12:15. Hot lunch students eat in the cafeteria and sack lunch students eat with me in the classroom. If your child forgets their lunch, they will have to get a lunch from the cafeteria. New rules do not allow parents to drop off food this year during lunch time.

## Planners

Planners will be put in the student's binder and will come home every night. They must come back every day as it is a lifeline to the classroom. Homework, spelling words, reading log, and teacher/parent communication (when there is a behavior issue) are all in the planner. Planners must come back every day!

## Friday Folders

Each Friday, a folder will be sent home with completed and graded school work, along with school notes and information for you to look through with your child. Please **sign and return** their "Friday Folder" each Monday.

**POWERSCHOOL will not be open for the first couple weeks of school.** The PowerSchool web portal offers parents the ability to access and review their students' grades and attendance online. At the beginning of each school year, parents of new students are given a confidential id and password. You will need these to associate your child's information to a login and password that you will create to access the web portal and see your child's information. Please keep them confidential to protect your child's information. If you do not have internet access, you may bring your child's login information to the school and use one of our computers. If this is not feasible due to work or transportation issues, and if you have no other means of logging into PowerSchool, you may send a written request for a paper report to the office.

## Tardy

Students who arrive after the 8:00 a.m. bell has rung must check in the office with their parents. Signing in does not automatically excuse the tardy. Tardiness is excused only if it is a result of serious or unavoidable circumstances. If a student arrives tardy more than 1 hour late (9:00 a.m.) or leaves school 1 hour early (2:00 p.m.), the student will be counted as ½ day absent. (This does not include medical appointments.)

**Daily Snacks and birthdays** We have a long morning so we will have a "working snack" mid-morning. Please send in a non-messy snack. The children can bring in a water bottle that they will keep at their desks. Please label it. Please only water. Birthday treats are welcome in our classroom. With Covid restrictions, only store-bought treats are allowed. In addition, our class has a student with Type 1 diabetes. I ask that you please inform me in advance what and when you plan on sending in treats for birthdays. Make sure there is a nutritional label on it as well, thank you for your help.

## **Overview of Subject Areas**

English/Spelling/Reading (“ELA”)

Religion

Handwriting

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies.

Specials: Spanish, Music, Computers, Physical Education, Art & Library.

Music, Computers, and Library are once a week.

Spanish is twice a week

P.E. is 3 times a week. P.E. shirts are bought in the main office and shorts are located at Stitch FX on Eglin Pkwy. P.E. uniforms are optional in the third grade.

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

Journeys is our English Language Arts program, which includes reading, phonics, spelling, writing, English grammar, listening, and speaking. Journeys provides significant digital support. Students are encouraged to utilize all the customized digital resources located on our class homepage.

### **Reading**

Daily practice with reading skills will promote greater learning across the curriculum. Each student will be expected **to log** at least 20 minutes of daily reading in their planner. Please help me to enforce this, as this nightly task will be counted as a grade at the end of each month. Besides our nightly reading logs, we will have weekly tests, read chapter books, and potentially have a Battle of the Books competition in the Spring (tentative because of Covid.) Detailed reading expectations for the year are located on our class homepage.

### **Accelerated Reader (AR)**

AR is a fun way to get kids reading different genres of books and it is a great incentive to increase reading time! AR is a program that offers quizzes after completion of a book. These quizzes can be taken in class at the beginning of the day and end of the day during silent reading time.

### **Spelling**

Students are expected to master high-frequency words (“100 No Excuse Words” test on January 22) in addition to weekly lists of words. New lists will come home in the students’ planners each Friday and tests will be given the following Friday. Since the spelling program focuses on students being able to spell across the curriculum, tests will also include “unseen dictation sentences” which will be new to the students, but will consist of words learned in prior situations. The sentences will be graded on formal sentence structure, capitalization, and punctuation and neatness. Children are also given the opportunity to earn extra credit in spelling by completing 6 “Spelling Pie” activities each week or Completing 6 activities on a “Spelling Menu.” You can find the Spelling Pie and Spelling menus on our class homepage.

### **Writing**

We will do a great deal of writing throughout the year to expose the children to many different types of written expression. Writing skills will be reinforced through our study of grammar and note taking will be practiced to help the children identify main ideas and other text features. In handwriting, we will be learning the art of cursive through “Handwriting Without Tears”. Neatness will be expected from each student. If work is not legible, they will be required to rewrite it.

## Math

Through Saxon, we will deepen our knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction skills, problem solving skills, multiplication, division, money, time, measurement, fractions and geometry. A strong emphasis will be placed on students mastering “facts” at an automatic level. Learning addition, subtraction, and multiplication skills with fluency will bridge a smoother transition into more advanced math skills. Daily review at home (using practice sheets, flash cards, computer games, Xtramath.com, etc.) will aid in their success.

## Religion

Religion is “taught” all day, every day. We take time to pray several times a day and will recognize God’s ever-presence with us as we work, play, eat, and travel throughout our school day. Our faith will be strengthened by learning about our Church community and its leaders. The children will also learn how they can best love and serve God in their daily lives. We are blessed with the opportunity to still attend Mass. Third grade will attend Mass on Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m. Currently, masks are required for Mass. If you wish to attend Mass and sit with your student, you may pick them up in the back of the church as we walk in at about 8:05a.m. Please walk your student back to me after Mass has ended. Thank you.

## Science and Social Studies

These subject areas are taught in units. In Nancy Larson Science 3, children will explore the world beyond their immediate environment as they study earth and space science. The Nancy Larson Science student link is located on our homepage (USERNAME: saintmaryschool PASSWORD: plane). Our Social Studies units will focus on government and communities, map skills, the regions of the United States, and current events. Students will have a test on the 50 states in May. Students will be tested in all of the above areas. Tests will be announced in advance, posted on our homepage, and written in the planners. Check our class homepage for updates.