

Dear Parents and Guardians,

August 2020

Welcome to our third-grade family! My name is Erin Brandt and I am military wife and mother of five. I have been here at Saint Mary Catholic School as a parent and volunteer for 6 years and after taking a seventeen-year break from teaching to raise my children, I am thrilled to be back here for my second year of teaching third grade. I extend my warmest welcome to two families that are new to our Saint Mary family, the Simones and Jucha Family. We are *all* truly blessed to be a part of this Christ-centered Saint Mary family, especially during this uncertain time. I wouldn't want to teach anywhere else!

There is a big adjustment from 2nd to 3rd grade. Significant academic growth occurs while independence, responsibility and ownership are common themes throughout our school day. Your child may have more responsibilities than they may be used to and this may overwhelm him/her at first. Please help me to reassure them that we will all work together to achieve their success. The first few weeks of school will consist of learning procedures and expectations within the classroom in addition to assessing and review. We will make sure to fill any academic gaps that may have occurred during the last five months. My goal is to make this the greatest year of your child's academic life!

Parents, this is going to be a fantastic year! Remember to hang in there the first month of school, especially with all of the needed changes because of Covid. It will be busy and sometimes overwhelming, but grace, compassion, patience and a whole lot of prayer will ensure we succeed in helping the children to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially to the best of their ability. Please join me in producing Disciples of Christ that not only thrive, but learn to serve others and achieve academic excellence!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Erin Brandt