

August 30, 2016

Dear Third Grade Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Saint Francis of Assisi School. My name is Ms. Gratta and I am thrilled to begin the new school year as your child’s new third grade teacher. This is my ninth year teaching here at Saint Francis and I am very much looking forward to spending the new school year with your child. Third grade is an exciting year full of exploring, learning, and most of all fun! My goal throughout the course of the year is to share with your child a passion and love for learning that will last for years to come.

Throughout the school year, students will be finding their “spot” in 3G and discover that third graders are “SPOT-on!” This spotted theme will work to correlate with our polka dot themed classroom. As a class, we will explore our core subjects within a comfortable learning environment for our classroom of learners. Our classroom will become a collaborative learning community where students will work together in order to meet academic expectations.

So much happens in Third Grade! Third grade is an exciting time as children embark upon new adventures in the world of learning. This is a year of important transitions, as well as one in which acquisition of new skills is accelerated. It is important to keep in mind that we all build on small successes. Each child will progress at his/her own rate, acquiring skills as he/she is developmentally ready.

**General Goals:**

Grade 3 offers an exciting year ahead! We will work together for the benefit of your child’s academic, social, and spiritual growth. As each student enters their classroom each morning, they become a member of a unique group. We will strive to encourage one another to achieve personal goals and celebrate our success. Our classroom learning environment will be one that promotes children who treat others with respect for all, hard work, and constructive work habits. Socially, we will learn how to become better listeners and hear the opinions of others. Throughout the school year, it will be my goal to challenge your child to do their very best and not become discouraged even when they encounter something rather difficult. By the end of the school year students will realize that third grade is a great “SPOT” to be in!

**Homework:**

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday evenings. Each evening, students will be asked to complete both a Math and Spelling assignment. The weekly Spelling test will usually be on Friday or the last day of the school week. Math assignments will always be a review of a concept that has been introduced and reviewed in the classroom. Occasionally, other assignments/projects may be given, in other subject areas including Religion, Science, and Social Studies. Completed homework must be passed in the following day. All important papers should be sent to and from school in the “**DOT”** (Daily Organizational Tool) binders. This is a communication tool that helps to teach students organization from an early age.

**Helpful Hints for the School Year:**

If your child has been absent, please send in a written note upon your child’s return to school**. A note is necessary even if you have contacted the teacher by email or phone\*.**

Pack a daily snack. We will have a morning snack around 10:00 each day. All snacks **must be banana and peanut free** due to allergies that exist within our classroom.

Ask your child each night to tell you a new fact or idea that they may have learned during the school. When asking, use specific kinds of questions such as titles of stories or concepts.

Check your child’s planner each night in their binder to make sure that all assignments have been completed and pack **DOT** binders immediately into backpacks.

Please stay tuned for weekly updates from myself as well as Mr. Cote each week to keep informed of upcoming events, what is being taught in the classroom, materials needs, and any suggested websites to enhance learning at home. All information shared in my weekly email is also found on my classroom website on the St. Francis of Assisi School website. This is updated on a regular basis including weekly Spelling words, vocabulary words, and homework assignments.

I look forward to working with you and your child throughout the course of the school year. I hope you can join me for our annual Open House on Wedenesday, September 14th. At Open House, we will have the opportunity to discuss the Third Grade curriculum in finer detail as well as goals and expectations for the school year. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to call and email me.

Sincerely,

Ms. Julianna Gratta

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