

Welcome to Third Grade!

Parent Information Night

Thank you so much for coming tonight! After tonight you will know more about some policies/procedures for the school and our class, as well as more about what to expect academically in third grade. Please feel free to ask questions both now and later. I know as the year progresses, you may have questions about what we are doing, and I welcome them. The quickest, easiest way to get some help is to email me at khenderson@scspk12.org. ☺

General School Information:

- Handbook Changes: Please read the student handbook. Many changes have been made to different sections. Some areas with many changes are the discipline, uniform code, as well as the technology sections.
- Your child will participate in a Chrome Camp during the first few days of school. During this time your child will learn about using the chrome books. Hopefully they can share with you what they learn, and what they need to remember when using the chrome books.
- If you are going to be in the building for any reason, please stop at the front desk and get a visitor's tag. This will help us all make sure everyone is safe and accounted for during the day! ☺
- As the children are maturing, we will all notice some big changes. They are continuing to become more independent quickly. In the morning, they have to be responsible for turning in homework, unpacking their backpacks, preparing their materials for the day, and beginning their morning work.

3rd Grade General Information:

- Newsletters-I will be posting important information each week to the class website. It will have spelling words, test dates, and class information. This would be the first place to look to find quick answers and information.
- Friday Folders-At the end of each week, I will send home your child's graded assignments and tests in their Friday folders. Please look over these papers with your child. Discuss what they did well, and discuss what possible improvements can be made for next week. Please return the empty folder on Monday morning.
- Grades-I will be posting grades in each subject on the online grade book once a week. Your child will begin to receive letter grades during second semester.

Springfield Catholic Schools' grading scale is as follows:

100-94%=A	85%=B-	75%=D+
93%=A-	84%=C+	74-71%=D
92%=B+	83-77%=C	70%=D-
91-86%=B	76%=C-	69% and below=F

- Homework-Typically, your child’s homework will be whatever assignments they did not finish during the school day. It will take all of us a couple of weeks to settle in and get used to the school routine. After this time, you will get a good idea of the amount of homework your child will have. Most students will have homework most days. Homework is due the following day. We have a system for homework in which students are able to earn “Free A” passes for staying organized and turning in work on time. This will start with second quarter.
*There will be times when your child will be bringing home their writing journal to look at with you. During the writing process, proofreading and editing is a huge step. Your child will be doing this step with you during some of our writing projects. We do this so hopefully they will be active in their editing skills and so you can see what kind of writing we are doing and how your child is progressing in their writing skills.
- Homework Folder-The red folder you sent with your child is used to house their homework during the day. This folder will hopefully help your child become more organized. Work they do not finish during the day is in their folder. At the end of the day, they check their folder for unfinished assignments. They will use it to see what books they need to bring home and what needs to be finished. It is so important for your child to learn responsibility, and being in charge of their homework folder is necessary.
*Please note: homework will not be handed out early. If your child will not be in school, they will have to collect their homework when they return. Your child will have one day per day missed to turn in make-up work. It is very important for each student to be in school each day. Please make every effort to help your child have good attendance.
- Assignment Notebooks/Planners-We will be filling out assignment notebooks every day. Your child will be checking them at the end of the day as another way to check what materials they need to take home. At the end of the week, we will be filling in important dates for the next week, such as tests and project due dates. We will use this to help plan for when to study for a test and managing time for upcoming projects. Your child will be bringing home their planner each day. Please remind them to bring it back the next day.
- Responsibility and Independence-It is so important for your child to grow in their responsibility and independence this school year. They will be responsible for more and more as the year progresses. Please know that I want your child to succeed and grow as much as you do. Please also be aware, there may be some difficult steps along the way. They may forget, lose, or not do some things. Occasional mistakes will not dramatically affect their overall learning or performance in third grade. It’s important for your child to know mistakes are a fact of life, and we learn from them. Hopefully we can all work together to prepare your child for fourth grade and beyond in all areas.

- Homework Space-I will be encouraging your child to find a consistent homework space at home. This will be a quiet, comfortable location they go to each day to work on homework. I will be encouraging them to be as independent as possible in their homework. Assignments and projects need to be the result of the student's efforts. Independence will help students feel proud of themselves and their capabilities.
- Studying-I do not expect third graders to be expert test takers. This will be a new and sometimes difficult skill for them. They have not learned how to study, or what to study. We will be working on study skills in class. I will be giving them tips and strategies as to how to prepare for different types of tests. Students will know in advance when tests are coming. I will be sending books home to study at the beginning of the year. As we enter the second semester, students will be planning what books to take home to begin studying for tests. A good tip is to not wait until the day before a test to begin studying.
- Tests-Your child will have regular, weekly tests. We will work on test taking skills also. The first few tests your child takes, we will do together so I can give them some tips along the way. This will also help them know how to answer different types of questions. Each Thursday, they will take a religion test. Each Friday, they will take a spelling/reading/writing test. Tests in other subjects will be less frequent than once a week.
- Attendance and Punctuality- Attendance is so important. Your child needs to be a part of our daily lessons and discussions. We all learn so much from talking about what we are learning, not just reading it in a book. Please help your child to be on time as well. Students will have daily morning work assignments to work on when they come in the door each morning. Being on time helps students feel more comfortable and ready for the day, rather than rushed and stressed. We also have to have homework turned in, lunch count and attendance turned in, and restroom breaks finished before 8:20 due to special classes and Mass times. It is helpful to your child and myself if they are here between 8:00 and 8:15.
- Birthdays-If you wish to send a treat with your child on their birthday, that's great! ☺ We have 20 students.
- Book Orders-I will send home book orders in the Friday folder at the end of the first week of each month. They will be due by the following Thursday. Please participate as you wish. Each dollar spent will go towards bonus points for our class which can be used for new books and other materials. Our class code is GRYFP if you order online.

Subject Overview:

- Religion-We will be covering a chapter a week in their religion textbooks. These chapters are full of challenging information. Please encourage your child to study each week. We will be attending Mass on Wednesdays and Fridays. The third

grade will join the rotation of classes leading the Masses in November. Students will take turns reading petitions, psalms, etc.

- Math- Math facts are so important! We will be focusing particularly on multiplication, followed by division. However, addition and subtraction facts are still very important and they will be using them regularly. Later in the school year the students will be taking daily multiplication facts tests. Please encourage them to practice. A great time to practice is while driving to and from school. ☺
- Writing-We will be working a great deal on different types of writing. We will be working with sentence and paragraph structure, as well as parts of speech. Students will be writing stories, various types of poems, book reports, and essays this year. Students will be working through the writing process multiple times.
- Reading-Students will be working on improving their reading skills. Now that students are capable readers, we will be going beyond. We will be working on skills that reach beyond what is printed on the page (making inferences, drawing conclusions, generalizations, etc).
- Spelling-Students will be tested on 15 new words each week. They will also test on 5 bonus words. These are challenge words that will count for extra points.
- Social Studies- The focus of social studies in third grade is communities. We will be looking at the various communities we are a part of in our world. Students will also be discovering how they can be active members of their communities. What is their role now? How will that role change as they grow older?
- Science- We will be covering different areas of science this year. There will be chapters about mass, the planets, plants, animals, as well as other topics. Students will be participating in different experiments throughout the year to further their knowledge of the science topics.

*Please be aware that science and social studies are full of new words and topics. These will largely be unfamiliar to students. These subjects require time and effort to be able to remember and use the information and vocabulary words.

Also, we are not able to cover all 7 subjects each day. We will be alternating routinely between social studies and science chapters.

*Please remember, I am here to help your child succeed. We are all learning together throughout the year. If you have questions, please email me. That is usually the best and quickest way to get some help. We are very busy in the mornings, so as mentioned earlier, please drop your student off at the door and we will be on our way! ☺