

St. Brendan Third Grade Curriculum

1. Religion

Text: Blest Are We (Silver Burdett Ginn)

There are five major areas of focus in the third grade religion curriculum:

- (a) doctrine of the church;**
- (b) power of prayer;**
- (c) growth in the Holy Spirit;**
- (d) symbols in the church;**
- (e) church as community.**

Students' focus during First Friday and holy day masses are important. Quizzes and class discussions pertaining to sermons and homilies constitute a part of the religion grade.

2. Math

Text: Houghton Mifflin

Third grade students focus on place value and numbers through hundred thousands including four digit addition and subtraction with regrouping and multiplication and division facts. Students learn multiplication computation through the hundred place value and two stage division with remainders. They begin to recognize and understand fractions and decimals. Students will demonstrate a greater understanding of geometry, especially in the classification of geometric shapes.

In addition to the math text book, students have a math workbook which will be primarily used for homework assignments. Students are given a cumulative math quiz every Friday.

3. Reading/Language Arts

Text: Rewards/Horizons (Houghton Mifflin)

The third Grade reading curriculum encompasses four main components of reading: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

In Third Grade, oral and silent reading, comprehension skills, word attack skills and vocabulary building are emphasized. The reading series workbook contains phonetic and spelling skills, including practice pages for each discipline. In addition, each student has an individual phonics and spelling book. Students will be given a spelling test consisting of eighteen words (fourteen basic words – four challenge words) from the weekly list introduced in their spelling book each Friday. The third grade reading curriculum will also be supplemented with books that I choose to read to and discuss with the class.

Third Grade students will learn to combine their writing and critical thinking skills by making: predictions, summarizing, creating character sketches, developing written descriptions of settings and by expressing in writing their own thoughts and feelings about what they read.

Students must have a chapter book of their choice in their desk at all times throughout the year. The school library hours are very flexible to accommodate students' needs.

Book reports will be done continuously in the classroom throughout the year. This method is invaluable as we progress through the editing process of writing. As the year continues, students will be asked to write a paragraph on a particular topic as part of their weekly homework assignment.

4. English

Text: English (Houghton Mifflin)

Third grade begins with a review of basic sentence structure, kinds of sentences and proper punctuation. Parts of speech and grammatical skills will be emphasized. Two forms of writing will be stressed: structured and creative.

5. Social Studies

Text: Reflections: Our Communities (Harcourt School Publishers)

The Third grade social studies book is divided into six units:

- (1) Our Geography**
- (2) American Indians**
- (3) Community History**
- (4) Government and Citizenship**
- (5) Standing United (covers national symbols, American landmarks, and early American history)**
- (6) Understanding Economics**

Each student has a social studies workbook that is coordinated with the text. A study guide is sent home before a test and this presents an optimum opportunity for you to prepare for the test with your child. Students play “Social Studies Jeopardy” before each test.

6. Handwriting

Text: Zaner-Bloser; A Way to Self-Expression

Concentration is on pencil-paper position and basic letter formation. Cursive letter writing is introduced immediately. Students will be using cursive as their daily handwriting by the end of the third grade.

7. Science

Science is taught by Mrs. Chris Tenhoff (see attached).

8. Computers

Ms. Tiffany Proehl incorporates computer skills throughout the disciplines (see attached).

9. Physical Education

P.E. is taught by Mrs. Linda Delahunty (see attached).

10. Art

Mrs. Phyllis Ciment and Mrs. Maghie Murphy alternate teaching art each week. Both Mrs. Ciment and Mrs. Murphy offer an appreciation and understanding of art in its many forms.

11. Music

Music is taught by Mr. Tom McQueen. Musical instruction includes learning how to play the recorder.

12. Dancing

Mrs. Gerry Washburn incorporates a variety of cultural music and dances into the Third Grade curriculum.