

August 22, 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 3rd grade! I am very excited for this new school year, and I can't wait to get to know your child and be a part of their elementary experience. This is my 11th year teaching here at St. Gerard. I taught 4th grade for a couple of years before switching to my current position, and I also was a student here K-8th grade! I look forward to a fantastic year in 3rd grade with your child where we will learn and pray together. Here are a few important things to consider as we begin this new school year:

The 3rd Grade Parent Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4th at 6:30 p.m. You will meet in Fr. Weber Hall, and then go up to individual classrooms. At this meeting I will go over the 3rd grade curriculum, special events, and answer any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you there!

The Assignment Notebook is introduced in 3rd grade, in which daily assignments are recorded each school day. Please support your child's efforts in becoming organized through this notebook since this is a new skill for 3rd grade that is built upon each year at St. Gerard. Your child will be given time each day to complete their notebook. The assignment notebook needs to be signed by a parent only every Thursday evening, but please make it a routine to check it over while going through your child's book bag each night. Reviewing your child's notebook and asking about the assignments and organizational strategies is a great way to be active in your child's learning. Also, if your child is missing any work I will make a note of it in there.

Students will be given daily assignments to complete in school. Assignments not completed in class are put in their home folder for homework and are due the following day, unless otherwise stated. Students are responsible for getting this finished homework out of their home folder first thing in the morning and turning it into the appropriate tray.

Look for graded papers to come home each Thursday night in the communicator envelope. Please do not hesitate to contact me if something doesn't look quite right. Please sign the communicator envelope and return it to school every Friday. Please check Power School frequently to monitor your child's progress in 3rd grade. I update grades on there regularly. If you have any technology questions or need information on signing up for anything, contact our amazing new technology coordinator, Allison Thompson, at athompson@stgerardlansing.org. **Our classroom website is prichard3rdgrade.weebly.com.** There you can find copies of our newsletter, helpful links, sometimes student work, and more.

Once a month I will be sending home a packet of book order forms. If your child would like to purchase books, please either make one check out to Scholastic Book Club, or online ordering is available at the Scholastic website. Our online ordering code is **GYGK8**. More information on this will be found in the weekly newsletters. I use any points I receive from orders to get books for our classroom library and school book room.

This year the 3rd graders will continue to exchange classes for Social Studies and Science. Mrs. Wade will be your child's Social Studies teacher, while I teach Science to the other class. Mrs. Wade is an amazing teacher and a great teammate for me!

A copy of your child's weekly schedule is being sent home. 3rd graders attend Mass on Tuesday mornings at 8:10, unless we have an All School Mass that week. I will notify you in advance when your child has a special role in a Mass. Please join us whenever you are able. Gym class is held on Wednesdays and Fridays. Each student is responsible for bringing the proper clothes labeled correctly in their gym bag. This is often a good year to start packing a stick of deodorant in their gym bag as well. Our first day of gym is this Friday, August 24th. Gym clothes stay at school, but they will be sent home at designated times throughout the year for cleaning.

All hardcover books need to be covered with book covers. The only soft cover book I would recommend covering with laminate is the big math workbook. No stretchy covers are allowed. Please have all books covered by Monday. Be sure all of your child's supplies are labeled with their names.

Each day a nutritional snack may be brought to school to be eaten mid-morning. No junk food, please. Students are welcome to celebrate birthdays, or half-birthdays if it falls in the summer, by bringing in a treat. (There are 21 students in our class. You do not need to prepare any extra.) I would really appreciate it if you wouldn't send anything that needs to be refrigerated or frozen. Also, keep in mind those store bought cupcakes with a lot of frosting tend to stain mouths and carpets. Please try to follow our school wellness policy and keep it healthy. Thank you!

There will be some classroom volunteer opportunities coming up as well as field trips throughout the year. If you are going to volunteer, you need to have been Virtus trained. There will be Virtus training at St. Gerard on Tuesday, Sept. 25th. Make sure to sign up!

If you have any questions or concerns, you can email me at aprichard@stgerardlansing.org. You can also call me at the school at (517) 321-6126. Our communication is essential to your child's education, so never hesitate to contact me, for things big or small. I am looking forward to working with you and your child for a wonderful 3rd grade year!

Sincerely,
Ashley Prichard