

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 3rd grade! I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer, and you are ready for the start of a new school year. I am really looking forward to another year at Bishop Marshall. In this letter you will find general information on the 3rd grade curriculum and detailed information on homework expectations.

Introduction

My name is Kate Curran, and this will be my 13th year teaching at BJAMS. My bachelor's degree is from DePauw University with a major in American History and minors in English and Religious Studies. I received my certification through the Elementary Education Master's program at Johnson State College.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to call, email or send a note. I am available before or after school to meet with you.

Weekly Communication/ Newsletter

I'll send a weekly email at the start of each week with notes, homework assignments for the week, the spelling lists, and reminders for the upcoming week.

Supplies

The school provides most of the school supplies that your child will need. If your child brings in his or her own crayons or markers, etc. please just label them with your child's name. Please **do not** bring in pens, as students will be provided with a pen if one is needed. Also, please do not bring in a binder to use as a folder. Desks are not large enough to fit a binder. Below is a short list of the items your child should bring on the first day of school:

- Durable two-pocket folder for homework and papers that should come home
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer and 1 bottle of disinfecting wipes

Homework

Your child will have homework Monday through Thursday unless otherwise posted. Homework is extremely important as it allows you to be involved in your child's learning, and it reinforces the lessons from the day. Your child will have Math and Language Arts homework. Math worksheets will come home each night. All Wordly Wise homework will be done in the Wordly Wise workbook which should travel back and forth from home to school each day and night. Corrections on homework will be done in class.

Math

The 3rd grade math curriculum continues with Saxon math as in 2nd grade. Your child will generally have math homework four nights per week-Monday through Thursday. Assessments will be given on Friday. Grades will be figured by combining student's homework credit and assessment scores.

Reading

We use two programs for Reading. One part of the reading curriculum is Scott Foresman. The Scott Foresman program includes a series of short stories that focus on different aspects of literature-setting, characters, theme, and plot. Students develop skills in predicting, drawing conclusions, deciphering between fact and opinion, author's purpose, and identifying the main idea and supporting details. Assessments will focus on vocabulary from the stories and overall comprehension of the story.

Students are also expected to complete four book projects throughout the year-one about every two months. A detailed packet with this information and due dates will be sent home the first week of school. It is also found on the homepage of our class website.

Writing/ Grammar

Students will complete a variety of writing pieces such as research paper, procedure, narrative, descriptive, and biography. Students will learn the writing process of brainstorming ideas, writing a draft, peer and teacher conferencing, making revisions and writing a final paper. Students will receive a rubric for each writing assignment which will detail the expectations of each writing piece. The Writer's Workshop program is used to guide writers. All writing assignments will be completed in class. Third graders should be writing independently.

Grammar will be taught using Fundamentals of Sentence Writing Program. It will only be done at school.

Spelling

Spelling lists are based on the Saxon Phonics program. A list will go home each Monday. I do not email the list-the paper is the only copy the student gets. There is a challenge and a standard list. Students will take a pretest on Monday to determine which list they get for the week.

Wordly Wise

Wordly Wise is a vocabulary program which has a list of 10 words each week. Students start with Book 2 which is the 2nd grade book. We will move on to Book 3 once we finish Book 2 which is around January. Wordly Wise is new for 3rd graders as it was not introduced in 2nd grade. This is why we start with Book 2. It teaches students the expectations, formatting and the type of words that will be given each week. There will be a multiple choice test on the word list on Friday.

Theme: Science/ Social Studies

Theme includes both Science and Social Studies. Science topics will include force, ecosystems, heredity, biological evolution, and Earth's systems. The curriculum will follow the Next Generation Science standards. More detail on these topics can be found at

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/ngss/files/3%20combined%20DCI%20standards%206.13.13.pdf>

Social Studies topics will include economics, history, government, and geography.

Religion

Third grade religion uses the Image of God series. This workbook is based on the teachings of Pope John Paul II. The content will include the study of the parables, seven sacraments and focus on the Ten Commandments.

Email

I check my email before each school day by 7:30am, during the school day, after school and again around 7pm at home.

Vacations and Long Absences

If your child is going to be absent for more than one day, please let me know if you would like his or her work sent home with another student or sibling in the building.

If you are going on vacation, please give me at least one week's notice so I can prepare a homework packet for your child. ***The completed work will be expected to be returned with the child on the first day back to school.***

If you have only one student at BJAMS, I am happy to scan and email homework at the end of the school day if you are not planning to pick up homework.

Uniform

Your child is expected to follow the Uniform Policy detailed in your handbook. If your child is continuously out of uniform, an infraction sheet will be issued.

Pick Up/ Drop Off

Your child may be dropped off after 7:30am and should arrive in the classroom no later than 8:00am. Students who arrive at the classroom after 8:00am will be marked tardy. It is **extremely important** that your child is on time, because I do start the school day promptly at 8:00am. Students need time to turn in homework and settle into the morning work.

Your child is to be picked up by 3:15pm unless he or she will be attending the After School Program. If your child has not been picked up by 3:15pm, he or she will automatically be enrolled in the After School Program and the charges will be added to your account. If another adult is picking up your child, you must send a note or email; otherwise your child will not be released. A note, an email or a phone call to the main office is mandatory if the friend or family member is not on your Authorized to Pick Up form.

Handbook

Please review the school's handbook. It contains a great deal of information about the school policies on discipline and other expectations. Please sign the last page of the book and have your child return it the first week of school.

Closing

Please contact me if you have any questions about any of the provided information in this packet. I am really looking forward to the upcoming school year. I know it will be another fantastic year.

Sincerely,

Kate Curran
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