



## **Third Grade Parent Orientation**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Third Grade! I am very excited for this opportunity to work with your child! This is my eighth year of teaching at NCS. We have a busy school year ahead of us and a lot of material to cover. It will be extremely important for your child to have good homework, sleep, and nutritional habits during the school year. Some of the new concepts your child will learn are: life cycles & biomes, matter & energy, community life, a rocks/minerals unit, create an animal report, multiplication, division, deepening their understanding of our Catholic faith, and strengthening their reading/writing skills.

By the beginning of each week, I have an updated newsletter posted to my web page, similar to this one, that highlights what we are covering for upcoming week and announcing any tests or quizzes to study for, as well as if a study guide accompanies the test or quiz. The web site also reminds you of specials classes, future events through my class calendar, and any items that need brought to school for projects, etc. My web page is [www.menglert.weebly.com](http://www.menglert.weebly.com) . The next few paragraphs cover important topics and I encourage you to read them and keep this letter for future reference.

### **Weekly Schedule:**

Monday: Music & Spanish

Tuesday: Music

Wednesday: Mass 9-9:40am (please join us!), & Gym

Thursday: Gym & Art

Friday: Library

### **Cooperative Learning/ Classroom Rules:**

The children are placed into teams and groups of five. The teams will vote to name their group and will need to work together on concepts and during day-to-day activities. These teams will be changed every four to six weeks. Classroom rules are posted next to the Smart Board. I will periodically remind the children why and how I created them. My first and foremost rule I add to the list is honesty. If we are honest with one another (with kindness), then we have already alleviated many other problems that can arise from being dishonest to others.

### **Behavior Management:**

I do my best to reward positive behavior and make sure our class is a safe, fun, and fair environment. I give classroom money to students who are on task, making good choices, turn in homework on time, and have had a great day. Once your child has collected certain increments of money, they can turn it in for prizes. They can also keep their money and save up for higher priced items. A list of prizes is posted next to the large whiteboard. If and when it is necessary to take measures beyond a verbal warning for misbehavior, the student will write their name on the board, give me one classroom dollar for misbehavior, and have five minutes recess time standing on the fence or doing work in the office. If their name is written on the board and they continue to misbehave I will send a note home to parents that needs signed and returned the next day. I will keep the notes in your child's folder in my classroom.

If there are four or more notes in a consecutive grading period I will schedule a conference to discuss a behavior management plan specific to your child's needs and we will try to determine together why this behavior is taking place.

### **Reading, Grammar, & Spelling:**

In reading we will implement the Daily 4 each day. This is the idea of choices for how students spend their learning time and to read at their target level. It enables a gain of in-depth knowledge in comprehension, adds to a child's reading strategies, and helps in gaining a higher level of writing ability on opinion pieces, reports, and writing in general. The choices are: read to self, read to a partner, word work (vocabulary word review/tasks for each story we are covering), and a writing workshop. We will have a spelling test each week and a list of 15 words & 5 challenge words that coincide with the reading story for the week. Dependent upon what we cover in class, the students have a spelling and grammar workbook which they will have pages to complete for homework on various nights. Students who pass the spelling pretest with a 100% do NOT have to take the Friday spelling test.

### **Subjects Taught:**

Mrs. Bogner teaches Math & Social Studies to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. I teach Science and Reading to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. We switch classes five days a week for these classes. Reading/Math is taught five days a week and Science/Social Studies is taught four days a week.

### **Homework:**

I cannot stress enough how important good homework habits are for your child. The earlier in life your child is started on a path to responsibility and being accountable for their work, the better. Homework is expected to be turned in **THE NEXT DAY (unless a specific future date is given)**. I will keep track of homework assignments and work that is not turned in, which dependent upon the situation, will result in a zero grade. If homework is turned in late, points will be deducted dependent upon the situation/circumstances. If a student is absent, they have as many days as missed to make up the work. My homework will be posted each night on a whiteboard next to the classroom door for students to record in an assignment book, as well as on my web page calendar tab.

### **Graded Papers:**

Graded papers will come home each week as they are graded. I do not do a graded papers folder. ***Your child needs to designate a "take home" folder for homework.*** We do this from the school supplies set of folders already purchased. Please keep graded papers at home unless they require a parent signature for a poor grade. Grades of a D or F will require a signature so I know you are aware of the scores your child is receiving. Grades will be posted in PowerSchool every two weeks. ***I would recommend not checking your child's grades on PowerSchool until a few weeks into the school year.*** Some kids may take a few weeks to get back into the swing of things and may receive a few undesirable grades due to summer lag. Once several grades are put into the system the averages will balance out and if your child did have a poor grade, they will have had a chance to turn things around and improve. You will know your child's progress from the graded papers coming home, as well as PowerSchool. I am here to help and if you have any concerns on your child's progress, please feel free to email me, write a note, or call the elementary office to schedule a conference with me.

### **Classroom jobs:**

We have classroom jobs that students will rotate every week so that each student has a turn helping to keep our room clean and running smoothly. Students must have their work area clean, book bags put away, and work/morning routines completed prior to working at an assigned job.

**Field Trips & Miscellaneous Information:**

**Swim:** The third grade students attend swimming lessons at the rec center in the spring through a grant. A specific set of dates has not been determined as of yet by the rec center. Permission slips will come home closer to when it is time to swim. We will need chaperones of both Moms and Dads to supervise the locker room changing time. **Volunteers must have the Protecting Our Youth workshop completed to help.**

**Field Trips:** We will attend a field trip to Seneca Caverns that coincides with our science curriculum. This is scheduled on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will also attend the Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue for a religious retreat on May 12th.

**Lunch Money:** Please send in a **completed** Meal Magic deposit slip with any monies for lunch and I will forward those on to the office. PLEASE LABEL THE ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

You can also go to [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com), register, and apply money to your child's account for a small fee online.

**Dismissal:** is at 3:10pm at the Monroe Street gym side doors across from the Convocation side doors for pick-up students. Bus students will be walked to the cafeteria for dismissal.

I am very excited for school to begin! It is important that you know my door is always open! I know firsthand the stresses of home life with my own four children's school work, extracurricular activities, and the demands of a career and family. My goal is to partner with you since you know your child better than anyone else. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with your child!

May God bless our families as we prepare for an awesome school year!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Englert