

Homework Plan/Expectations

Assignment notebook - Students will write down assignments daily. Part of your child's homework is to have a parent or guardian check it over and sign it each night. We also use it as a parent-teacher communication tool. Any questions or notes can be written in the assignment notebook. In addition, this is a way to record your child's reading. Our expectation is that each student reads at least 20 minutes each night (10 minutes out loud) and records the book title in their planner.

Late assignments - If an assignment is missing or incomplete, your child will be expected to fill out a late assignment sheet. There are three categories of late assignments. The first category is for missing parent signatures in the assignment notebook. This late assignment sheet will be on green paper. The second category is for not recording their 20 minutes of reading. This sheet will be on yellow paper. The third category includes all other homework assignments. These late assignments will be on white paper. On the fourth late assignment for each of these categories your child will need to attend Study Club. Your child will be required to go to Study Club after each subsequent late slip. Each trimester we start over. In third grade we use the first and second trimesters as a way to practice being organized and responsible. **Your child will still have to fill out a late assignment sheet, but Study Club won't begin until the third trimester.**

How You Can Help:

1. Go through the assignment notebook with your child each night.
2. Ask your child to explain their assignments.
3. Establish a nighttime routine which includes organizing his/her homework and going through his/her take home folder.
4. Hold your child accountable by allowing him/her the responsibility of bringing his/her homework and assignment notebook to school each day.
5. Communicate with your child's teacher if the homework is difficult for your child or is taking an excessive amount of time to complete.
6. Use the website as a resource to check our newsletters and to get information on what we are focusing on in class.

Behavior/Discipline Plan

St. Francis has adopted the PBIS model for behavior. The main idea is that we acknowledge and reinforce positive behavior. The students receive tickets when a teacher sees them using good behavior. They will be able to use those tickets to receive different awards at school. If they are displaying inappropriate behavior, they will have a consequence for that at school. In third grade, to let you know that your child has received a consequence at school for bad behavior, we will put a sticky label in your child's assignment notebook where you would sign it that night. They will fill it in by writing what behavior they were doing that earned them a consequence. Please write your initials on the label so we know you are aware of what happened at school.

How You Can Help:

1. Discuss appropriate behaviors for school with your child.
2. If your child has a consequence at school, ask them to explain the poor choice he/she made.

Religion

The focus in third grade religion is building a strong faith community. We discuss our church community and also work at creating a strong classroom community. This is achieved through weekly class meetings, prayer services, and intentions. In addition, Bible study is an element of third grade religion. We believe that growth in faith is a lifelong journey. Therefore, religion is integrated into all aspects of our school day.

How You Can Help:

1. Pray daily with your child.
2. Attend weekend Mass.
3. Be open to receiving the sacraments as often as possible.
4. Pray the Rosary with your child.
5. Practice The Confiteor and The Nicene Creed with your child.

Science/Social Studies

In science, we will study interesting topics like the rainforest, forces and motion, as well as the moon and the solar system. Many of the activities we will do are hands-on experiments. We will conclude our year with a unit on health.

Daily Oral Geography (DOG) - Consists of six questions that cover basic geography. The DOG questions should come home on Monday and remain in their take home folder on the send back side to study for the quiz on Friday.

In social studies we will be learning about communities and our responsibilities as citizens. There will be a field trip to Living History Farms to help us learn about the development of early communities.

How You Can Help:

1. Discuss local, national, and world events with your child.
2. When you travel, encourage your child to use a map to help you locate your location and destination.
3. Review DOG questions with your child throughout the week before the quiz on Friday.

Writing

We will continue with Writer's Workshop this year in third grade. This gives the students more time to go deeper into the writing process. The program goes through many different strategies to help the students create and publish various types of writing. Although writing is integrated into different curricular areas daily, we also provide the students with over three hours of direct instruction in writing each week. The faculty at St. Francis has been trained in Six Traits, an innovative approach that enhances our writing instruction. This method teaches students to focus on one component of writing at a time. The components to be mastered during this program are ideas, voice, sentence fluency, organization, word choice, and conventions. If we are focusing on a trait besides conventions, we might be asking for your help to edit your child's writing at home. Some of our writing units this year include: narrative writing, letter writing, descriptive writing, informative writing, an author study, and using writer's notebooks.

How You Can Help:

1. Encourage your child to storytell at home.
2. Provide opportunities for writing. Write for real reasons such as greeting cards, letters, lists and messages.
3. Continue to share your writing with your child on every possible occasion.

Math

Daily Math Practice (DMP) - DMP is used throughout the week to review or introduce different math concepts. The five problems focus on a variety of math skills. Students work individually and then discuss them as a group.

Mental Math - We review different concepts using mental math. Throughout the trimester we assess students in their mental math ability, which will be reflected on their progress report.

Units Covered - Place Value, Addition and Subtraction, Time and Money, Measurement, Multiplication, Geometry, Division, Data and Probability and Fractions.

Assignments - There will be daily math assignments to complete.

Flashcards - Addition and Subtraction facts need to be practiced at home nightly. Eventually multiplication and division cards should be as well.

How You Can Help:

1. Practice the basic facts with your child whenever possible.
2. Explore the math resources found on our website with your child for reinforcement and challenges.
3. Encourage your child to complete the homework without help before reviewing it with them.

Handwriting

Third grade reviews manuscript at the beginning of the year. We start learning cursive letters and common strokes one at a time. This year the students will work within a workbook to complete daily activities. When instruction of the cursive alphabet is complete, we will expect the students to use cursive writing on certain assignments. Until we have learned all of the letters, students are required to write in manuscript.

How You Can Help:

1. Stress the importance of using neat handwriting.
2. Discourage your child from practicing cursive at home until we have learned the proper strokes at school.
3. As we are learning cursive, review the proper strokes with them.

Keyboarding

This year will be the first year your child will be formally introduced to keyboarding strategies. With the growing focus on technology, it is important for students to practice the correct usage of the keyboard from an early age. The sooner students become proficient with keyboarding skills, the more success they'll find using the computer for school tasks and projects. We will use the computer lab to practice keyboarding two times per week for 30 minutes each session.

How You Can Help:

1. Encourage your child to use proper keystrokes (without looking down) and keep their fingers on the home row.
2. Provide opportunities to use the keyboard at home.

Spelling

We will continue the spelling program that we have used the past few years in grades 3-5 based on individualized spelling lists for each student. However, it is a modified program compared to the way it runs in 4th and 5th grade. We will test students on Fridays. The list will start with ten words and work up to sixteen words. The first eight words will be the same for all students and the remaining words on the list will be chosen from a list of differentiated, grade-appropriate words. The students may also add words to their lists based on their individual needs as writers.

How You Can Help:

1. Play games like hangman with your child.
2. Have your child practice writing the words with markers or crayons to make it more fun.
3. Help your child with time management. The *You Choose* assignment is due on Wednesdays and the *Look, Say, Cover, Write* assignment is due on Thursdays. The students receive these assignments every week on Fridays to make sure they have enough time to study and turn in quality work.
4. Use the spelling city website to help your child practice their words on the computer.

Reading/Comprehension

Comprehension - In third grade comprehension is the main focus of all reading lessons. We will study various aspects of comprehension strategies. Our goal is to get your child thinking about what they are reading.

Daily Language Review (DLR) - DLR is completed at the start of most days. It is a five-problem sheet, which covers a variety of skills.

Shared Reading/Modeled Reading - Teachers model reading as well as discuss comprehension with students daily. We will also be sharing famous literature and some of our Rigby big books.

Guided Reading - Students read at their instructional level with teacher assistance.

Independent Reading - Time is provided daily for students to read at their independent level.

Reading Log - Assignment Notebooks are used to record nightly reading. Students are required to read at least twenty minutes every night. Because fluency is a major component of comprehension, ten of those minutes should be read out loud.

Genre - This year the students will be learning about all of the different fiction and nonfiction genres. Throughout the year they will be required to read books from the various genres.

How You Can Help:

1. Read with your child whenever possible. Read to them for enjoyment and let them read to you to practice their fluency.
2. Encourage your child to branch out and read other genres.
3. Discuss the book your child is reading and ask questions about it.