

Welcome to Grade 3



Extra Information for All Grade 3 Classes

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Grade Three! This letter is to inform you of the Grade Three curriculum and important information about our classes. You will find more specific details about our classes on the Notre Dame website at www.nd.gsacrd.ab.ca -- go to eTeachers and select the teacher you are looking for to access their class webpage. You are an important partner in your child's learning. Please know that what you do to support your child's interest and success in learning will make an important difference in school. Thank you in advance for all your help in making this year a successful learning experience for your child.

New Classroom Design (Flexible Seating)

When you walk into our classroom, you will find students engaged in active learning. Flexible seating is a concept rooted in educational research that encourages students to choose their type of seating based on their learning preferences. Research shows that students are able to focus and do their best work when they are comfortable. With flexible seating, teachers create a less traditionally structured and more student centered active learning environment. Students will be able to choose a spot that is best suited for their learning. There is a variety of seating and learning areas including rugs, mats, tables, bean bags, desks, hokki stools, standing table and kneeling at coffee tables. Students are not required to stay in the same spot. They have the ability to make a different seating choice when we switch activities throughout the day, as their academic needs dictate. For example, some students may want to use a traditional type of seat during math, but then use a yoga mat while reading a favourite novel. The choice and freedom is theirs as long as they're exercising a responsible choice that helps them be academically successful. We are excited to explore this new classroom design!

Curriculum Information

We will follow the guidelines of the Alberta School Curriculum in all subject areas. Field trips and special events will take place in order to enhance the program. Following is information on subject content that will be covered this year.

Language Arts

The application of language skills is necessary for successful achievement in all subject areas. Through "listening, viewing, reading, speaking, writing and representing" the students develop and grow in their ability to communicate.

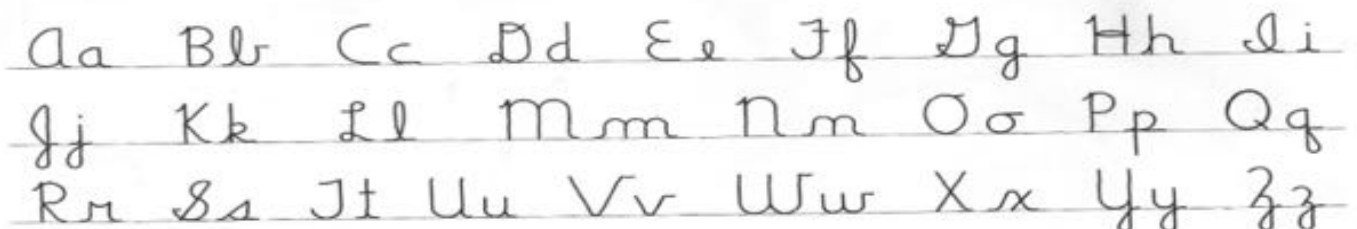
Reading: Our goal is to foster a love for reading through exposure to good literature from a variety of sources. Daily practice at home and school will increase the students' vocabulary and comprehension skills. Whenever possible, listen to your children read, have them make predictions, ask them a few questions about what they've read, discuss the characters, the plot, how they enjoyed the ending, etc. Please keep their Reading Logs up to date.

Writing: We apply the skills learned in Grades One and Two to story writing, outlines, paragraphs, reports and letters. Students should demonstrate growth in vocabulary development, imaginative writing (quality of details and voice), revision and editing skills. There is greater emphasis placed on proper sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization and spelling. We will be using "6+1 Writing Traits," as well as, activities from other writing programs.

Handwriting: With this program, we teach the students to write with proper posture, paper position, and beginning their letters from top to bottom and left to right. These activities help the students to have strong handwriting skills, as well as, minimizing letter reversals and encouraging proper letter formation. Here are some ways you can support us at home when your child is doing handwriting:

1. Have your child sit with their feet flat on the floor and arms resting comfortably at the table.
2. Slant their paper to fit the natural arc of the forearm.
3. Check to make sure that letters go from top to bottom and left to right.

Here are the cursive letter formations we will be teaching this year:



Math

Our school uses the Pearson Math Makes Sense resource. The focus of this resource is for math to be fun and hands on. With teacher guidance and support, students learn new math concepts by exploring and self-discovery. At the beginning of each unit students will receive a Challenge Question Booklet, which they will work on in class throughout the unit. They will also complete practice questions and use various math games to help learn and reinforce the concepts being taught for each lesson.

Social Studies

We will be learning what life is like for children in Peru, Tunisia, Ukraine and India. If you are able to contribute to our studies of these countries, please send us a note in your child's agenda.

Unit 1: Many Places, Many Lives

Unit 2: How Communities Work

Unit 3: Land and Resources

Unit 4: Citizens of the World

Science

Students will explore and investigate these units through hands on experiences.

1. Rocks and Minerals
2. Hearing and Sound
3. Building with a Variety of Materials/Testing our Designs
4. Animal Life Cycles

Computer Technology

Computer skills will be used to enhance learning in various subject areas. (Keyboarding, Spreadsheets, Word Processing skills and use of the various Google programs)

Health

Theme 1: Self Awareness and Acceptance

(Pro-Active Social Skills Program-Building a School Community, Letting our Precious Light Shine by Growing in the Spirit and Building Character with Virtues)

Theme 2: Relating to Others and Making Positive Decisions

Theme 3: Life Careers

Theme 4: Body Knowledge and Care

Music

The elements of Music are taught through the enjoyment of singing and movements.

Art

In Grade Three, the students are exposed to painting, drawing, sculpture and crafts in their Art projects. These projects are based on holiday themes or timely Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies activities.

Religion

The aim of the Grade Three religion program is to deepen the experience of belonging to God in and through a community of faith in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus. We will also be attending mass at St. Jean Baptiste church two times throughout the school year.

The Grade Three program has five units and each unit contains various themes.

Grade Three Information

Electronics

We do support and encourage students to bring in their own devices, such as an iPad or Google chrome book to support their learning when we are making use of these technologies. We will advise you when these devices are needed in the classroom and it is up to your discretion whether you want to send them to school. Your child will be solely responsible for ensuring their device is safe and used properly.

Vision/Hearing Testing

If your child has not had vision testing done within the past year, please consider making an appointment. If hearing is a concern, please have this checked as well. Often, difficulties in vision and hearing, affect academic progress.



We hope this will be a happy and successful year for your child! Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding our classes or your child.

Sincerely,

Carmen Hills & Stephanie Hallett
(chills@gsacrd.ab.ca) -- (sdemershallett@gsacrd.ab.ca) (jminiaci@gsacrd.ab.ca)

Jessica Miniaci

Elizabeth Richardson-Kuzyk
(erichardsonkuzyk@gsacrd.ab.ca)

Colleen VanBrabant
(cvanbrabant@gsacrd.ab.ca)

Shelly Walline
(swalline@gsacrd.ab.ca)

WELCOME

