



Our Lady of Guadalupe School fosters Gospel values, inspires academic excellence, and develops service and leadership. We face this as a sacramental community united and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Welcome to 3rd Grade

rhoch@guadalupe-school.org

(206) 935-0651 ext.104

Curriculum Overview: The third grade curriculum includes the following:

Religion - With a focus on the Catholic Church, our third graders will explore scripture, the life of Jesus Christ, the Seven Sacraments, and the community of Christ's disciples and saints. Together, we will live our faith through daily prayer and service to one another. **Service Project:** As part of OLG's focus on Catholic Social Teachings, the 3rd and Pre-K classes will partner with WestSide Baby to collect previously owned items for children and infants.

Math - The foundation of addition and subtraction is in place! Now our third graders will dive into deeper concepts of place value, multiplication, division, fractions, geometry, measurement, graphs, and problem solving. The students will use the Math in Focus curriculum to master the Common Core Standards.

Reading - This year students transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. This takes practice, practice, and more practice! Third graders are expected to read a minimum of 20 minutes everyday at home. As homework, they will record their reading minutes on the Weekly Reading Log. At-home reading will include books of students' choosing as well as teacher-assigned science, social studies, or spelling assignments. We will be using the Wonders curriculum for our Language Arts learning - reading, writing, spelling - which provides opportunities for students to practice reading skills/strategies independently, with a peer, and in small groups.

Writing - Third graders will enjoy learning cursive this year. They will also engage in the writing process through reading responses, paragraph writing, and cross-curricular activities.

Spelling - Spelling lists will be sent home at the beginning of (almost) every week. Spelling tests will be on the last day of the week, typically Fridays.

Social Studies - Third graders will "travel" to Seattle, China, & Africa.

Science - Using FOSS science kits, they will use hands-on investigations to explore Motion & Matter, Structures of Life, and Water & Climate.

Parent/Teacher Communication - My goal is to provide comprehensive and consistent classroom communication through weekly newsletters. Classroom newsletters will be sent via email at the beginning of each week, usually Sunday night. The newsletter will inform you of our weekly activities, special notes, and important dates. I am also available to meet with parents after school at a mutually agreed time. You can contact me by email at rhoch@guadalupe-school.org. I find that email is the most efficient way to reach me.

Snack - Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack each day. Please help ensure that your child's snack is, indeed, healthy. Some suggestions include: yogurt, granola bars, fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers, pretzels, etc.

Birthdays - We love celebrating birthdays! Please let me know at least a day ahead of time if your child will be bringing a treat so I can plan ahead. The best times for sharing treats are during lunch or in the afternoon. If a birthday falls on the weekend or school holiday, we can celebrate on Friday or Monday. For summer birthdays, we like to celebrate ½ birthdays.

Homework - The average time for homework will be approximately 30-40 minutes each night. Students are expected to read for at least 20 of those minutes and to track their daily reading on the *Weekly Reading Log*. The *Weekly Reading Log* is sent home at the beginning of each week and is due on the last day of the week. Students will also have spelling, math, science/social studies/religion, and writing/grammar assignments throughout the week. In addition, long term projects will also be assigned throughout the year.

Friday Notebooks - Third graders record their weekly behavior, homework, classroom job responsibilities, and Hoch Buck earnings in their Friday Notebooks. The Friday Notebook is a communication tool for teachers, students and parents. Students will take home their Friday Journal at the end of each week. They are responsible for showing parents their work. I ask that parents read and sign the Friday Notebook over the weekend. Students are expected to return the Friday Notebook the following Monday.

Behavior Management - We use a behavior chart & Hoch Bucks to encourage students to make good behavioral choices in third grade. The behavior chart is made up of four colors: Green (doing great), yellow (needed a behavior reminder), orange (needed two-three behavioral reminders), and red (student struggled significantly to meet behavioral expectations). Your child will record their daily behavior in their Friday Notebooks. Note: If a student's behavior results in a severe disruption or serious safety issue, the student will be sent immediately to the office.

Hoch Bucks - The third grade class will be actively involved in a year-long study of economics where they earn *HOCH BUCKS* for jobs well done. Students track their weekly earnings in their Friday Journal. The intended goal of Hoch Bucks is for

students to take more pride in their work, their behavior, and in taking responsibility for their actions. They learn to keep track of their money, and not to lose it. They learn how to save up for things that are important to them. They will also learn the value of earning money, instead of just being given things for free.

Each week, students earn Hoch Bucks for the following things:

- ⇒ \$1.00/day when they show perfect behavior [stayed on green!]
- ⇒ \$1.00/day when they complete their homework on-time
- ⇒ \$1.00/day when they complete their classroom job responsibilities
- ⇒ \$1.00 for each week their desk is neat and organized [inspected randomly throughout the week]
- ⇒ Up to \$3.00 for weekly Super Star Activities
- ⇒ Always an opportunity to receive Bonus Bucks for outstanding displays of leadership, kindness, focus, and study

Students will accumulate HOCH BUCKS for our classroom auctions, where they can buy items including (but not limited to): Free homework passes, teacher-student desk swap coupons, stickers, toys, popcorn party coupons and recess with the teacher coupons. The first auction will be in December.

Mystery Reader Fridays - Parents, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, or other special people are invited to surprise your child by being a “Mystery Reader” this year in our classroom. Mystery Readers visit our classroom on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm and read a picture book aloud to the class. The readers are asked to write five clues ahead of time so that the class has a chance to guess who our weekly Mystery Reader will be! Mystery Reader will begin in October. I will send out a SignUp Genius in September for Mystery Reader signups.

Super Star Activities - Super Star Activities are a way to challenge students and to keep their brains active. Each week (starting in October), there will be up to 3 new Super Star activities or tasks to complete for extra learning. Some activities may require research. These are optional assignments and are not required.

The Giving Tree - Third graders are encouraged to report good deeds and positive things they see others doing by adding leaves to our Giving Tree. Students write down good deeds they see happen throughout the day on leaves, then tape the leaves to our Giving Tree. We’re excited to watch it bloom all year long!

Pre-K Buddies - Third Grade is partnering with Pre-K this year. Once a month the two classes will come together to complete a special project. We will also work together on our service project to help WestSide Baby with item drives. We’re excited to be special buddies with the Pre-K students!

3rd Grade Classroom Expectations

Our classroom creates a small community of learners. Each student is an active community member who acts in accordance with behavioral expectations. Our classroom has the following classroom expectations.

We keep our classroom and community a nice place to be, by:	> Always being honest.
	> Being a good listener.
	> Asking before leaving the room.
	> Exercising safety in the classroom.
We are respectful of others and the classroom, by:	> Never speaking inappropriate or unkind words.
	> Keeping our hands and feet to ourselves.
	> Raising our hands instead of interrupting.
	> Keeping our desks and room neat and tidy.
We are thoughtful of others in the school, by:	> Walking quietly in the halls.
	> Behaving in the restrooms.