

Grade Level Introduction: Third Grade 2019-2020



Teacher Contact Information

Mrs. Melissa Doyle

B.S. Psychology

Undergrad – Washington State Univ.

M.A. in Teaching – Univ. of Portland

ACSI and Arizona Certified

Years taught: 7, Years at Casas: 4

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Mrs. Karen Steele

B.S. Elementary Education from NAU

ACSI and Arizona Certified

Years taught: 16, Years at Casas: 5

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Grade Level Description

Third grade is an exciting and pivotal year. Our goal is to cultivate in our students a love of God and a love of learning in an atmosphere of respect, acceptance, excellence and love. As third grade teachers, we enjoy creating a rich and fun environment where students can be successful academically, socially and spiritually.

Our curriculum is fun and engaging. Differentiated instruction aims to reach students with different abilities and learning styles by including a variety of activities, games, centers, and role playing. Integrated units provide a highly successful approach that enhances instruction, increases comprehension, provides higher level thinking, and advances vocabulary and writing skills.

Bible is taught as a subject, as well as integrated throughout all other areas of instruction.

In third grade, we focus on a life-changing relationship with Jesus and daily application of Biblical principles. Students learn Bible verses, songs and Chapel presentations.

Saxon math is taught in a math block. Students are grouped according to their abilities. Saxon math is a

highly successful method of spiraling instruction that systematically introduces new concepts. Our students are generally advanced by one or more years in math.

Book Clubs are a big part of third grade. In these groups, students gain a love for reading. Novel studies, book projects and reading logs enrich this process. We are book buddies with the first grade.

In writing, we use the Six Traits of Writing model. Students learn to write poetry, fictional stories, narratives, research and biographies, and friendly and formal letters. Emphasis is placed on the writing process, as well as the end product.

Science and Social Studies are often integrated with the Language Arts instruction. Topics include Biomes, Early Exploration, Thirteen Colonies, Inventions, and Ancient Civilizations. These fun and enriching units include labs, projects, field trips, and simulations. Highlights include an Ancient Civilization Day, owl pellet dissection, and an Invention Convention.

Technology and computers are used on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to use technology to do research, presentations, and create word documents that include graphics.

Grade Level Resources

Bible: Purposeful Design

Reading/Language Arts/Writing:

McGraw-Hill Wonders

Easy Grammar

Six-Traits of Writing

Novel Studies

Math: Saxon Math 4 (leveled placement)

Science: Harcourt/Variety text sets and additional resources

Social Studies: Harcourt Publishers

Handwriting: A Reason to Write

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Special Events

Biome Projects
Owl Pellet Dissection
Ancient Civilization Day
Early Explorer Reports
STEM Science Activities
Invention Convention
Geography Bee
Spelling Bee
Book Clubs, Book Projects & Reading Buddies
Poetry and Bible Recitations
Math Olympics

Field Trips

Flandrau Center – U of A
Rodeo
Symphony
Golf 'N Stuff

Service Projects

Rice Bowls
Parable of the Talents project
Letters of Encouragement project
Gospel Rescue Mission outreach
Feed My Starving Children

Grade Level Weighting

Tests/Projects/Reading logs	50%
Homework	20%
Class Work	30%
Total	100%