

Dear Third Grade Parents,

Welcome. I am Mrs. Katie Lutz. I am looking forward to a great school year. My goal is to guide your child through an educational and fun-filled year.

The following is a short introduction of what will take place in the classroom this year.

**Teaching Experience:** This is my sixth year of teaching for Aquin Elementary School. I taught second grade for my first year, and this will be my fifth year of teaching at the third grade level.

**Background:** I have lived in Freeport all of my life. I attended Aquin Elementary as well as Aquin High School and graduated in 2000. After high school I studied elementary education at NIU and graduated in 2004.

**Curriculum:**

Reading: Third grade reading includes two reading books with many different stories. Each story that your child will read has its own set of vocabulary words as well as activities that are linked with the story. We will read one story a week. The students will be tested on the vocabulary from the story as well as their comprehension of the story at the end of each week.

- ❖ Sign-o-gram: Following each story that your child reads at school they will be responsible for reading the story at home and signing the sign-o-gram.
- ❖ Weekly Reading Log: This is an opportunity for students to document their nightly reading at home. Reading logs will be passed out on Friday and be due back the following Friday. Your child will need to read 5 out of 7 days. Reading logs will count toward the reading grade. Extra credit will be given for reading more than 5 days. All reading logs must include a description of the book read and be written in the students' own handwriting.

Language Arts: Language Arts is linked with the reading series. We will use the language handbook as well as a series of overheads. We will be focusing on sentences, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. There will also be many different writing activities using many different styles of writing.

Spelling: Spelling is also linked to the reading series. Pretests will be given on Mondays or at the beginning of each week. Those who pass the pretest with a perfect score will not be required to take the first part of the final test on Friday. However, everyone will be required to do the weekly assignments and challenge words on Friday.

Math: We will be using the Saxon Math series. It is designed to give the students constant exposure and review of all math concepts taught. A new concept will be introduced each day. That topic will continue to appear throughout the school year. Tests will start after lesson 10 and will then be given after every 5 lessons.

Handwriting: We will be reviewing D'Nealian manuscript and then writing in cursive. All work will be done in cursive starting at the beginning of the second quarter.

Science: Third grade science will include four units - animals, weather, forces and motion, lakes/ponds/rivers/streams. The curriculum will include activities that the students will do individually as well as in groups. I may also request your help in collecting and bringing in materials to do some of the activities.

Religion: Religion will be taught on all days when the students do not attend Mass. We will be focusing on church and communities as well as traditions this year. Study guides for each chapter will be passed out at the beginning of each new chapter. This will include vocabulary and other information that will be important to study. Occasionally your child may ask you for

your ideas and input on their homework. Please feel free to ask me if you ever have any questions about the homework.

**Student of the Week:** We start student of the week a few weeks into the school year. Be on the lookout for your child's student of the week date. On Monday the student of the week will bring a poster that they have decorated over the weekend to school to be displayed. On Tuesday his/her classmates will write a compliment about them. These will be displayed with the poster. On Friday your child will be able to bring something special to school to share with the class.

**Homework:** Please make sure to check and sign your child's assignment book every night. Whatever assignments are not finished will receive an "I Forgot" slip. Late work will lose five points for each day it is late. A demerit will be given for every five "I Forgot" slip.

**Grading System:** We will be using the diocese report card again this year. Please refer to your handbook for the grading scale.

**Book Orders:** We will be using Lucky Book Club this year as well as special offer book orders. The order form will be handed out as the beginning of each month. The return order should include the filled out form as well as a check or cash for the amount due. Please make checks payable to the book club and not the school. You may also order book online.

I hope this will give you an idea of what your child's school year will be like. I think that this is going to be a great year for both the students and myself. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Katie Lutz