

Mrs. Balinbin  
Third Grade Classroom Handbook  
2017-2018

--Welcome--



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September 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to third grade! I am very delighted to be your child's third grade teacher this year! I grew up in Spokane and graduated from Gonzaga University with my degree in Special Education and Elementary Education. After Gonzaga, I attended the University of Portland in the Pacific Alliance for Catholic Education (PACE) Program, a Masters of Education program that allowed me to teach while still going to school. I spent three summers on campus in Portland, and the two school years in between in Ogden, Utah teaching first grade at a Catholic School. After two years in the program, I graduated and moved to the Seattle area. I have spent my time outside of school with family, playing on various CYO sports teams, crafting, cooking, traveling, hiking, and enjoying time outdoors with my husband. This is my fourth year on staff at St. Madeleine Sophie and I feel so blessed to be back for another year!

I look at this school year with an open mind. I am excited to get to know your students and teach them. I also look forward to the many things they will teach me. It will be a year of growth for all of us!

As your child's teacher, I will do my best to ensure that our classroom is a place of safety, continuous learning, trust and respect, and where each student will be recognized and valued for their individual gifts and strengths. I will keep in touch with you throughout the year regarding your child's progress. I hope to meet each child's individual needs and through a partnership with you, I know we can make that happen.

I expect that each student be an active listener, learner, teacher, and a team player. I hope that your child will be a successful student and community member.

Please feel free to contact me throughout the year if you have any questions or comments or if you would like to volunteer in the classroom. The best way to reach me is by e-mail at [abalinbin@stmadsophie.org](mailto:abalinbin@stmadsophie.org)

Best,

Amanda (Mandy) Balinbin

# Classroom Expectations

Students can achieve at their highest level in a positive environment where they feel safe, and can enjoy learning while challenging themselves. This type of environment can be achieved when there are classroom expectations in place. These are the expectations required in our classroom at all times:

1. Be respectful of others work, thoughts, personal space, and items.
2. Work quietly so not to distract others or yourself.
3. Follow directions.
4. Listen respectfully when others are talking.
5. Be friendly and welcoming to classmates.
6. Cooperate with others.
7. Be honest and trustworthy.
8. Always try your best.

## Communication

E-mail is the most efficient way to communicate throughout the year to answer any questions, concerns, or set up an appointment to discuss any information that will help to ensure your child will have a successful year.

I will have information and additional resources available on my teacher website, and I will continue to update it throughout the year to keep you informed.

Each Monday I will send out a weekly email with classroom updates, important dates, and a general check-in with how our class is doing week-to-week. Please keep an eye out for this!

## Money System

As we get into the swing of things, I will introduce a money system. Students will be rewarded with “Balinbin Bucks” for good behavior, hard work, spontaneous positive behavior, and acts of kindness. Students will be able to trade their money for prizes or coupons for various desired activities. On the flip side, students can also be charged for inappropriate behavior, late work, and unkind acts, losing money toward a trip to the prize bin or coupons.

## **Consequences**

There are consequences for students who choose not to follow the rules and each situation will be dealt with on an individual basis. Every child is different and needs to handle situations in their own way. I will encourage the student to figure out why the specific behavior is happening and how we can work together to create a plan to fix it.

## **Snack Time, Recess, and Lunch**

We have three recesses daily. Morning recess runs from 10:00-10:15am. Lunch recess runs from 11:30am-11:55pm. Afternoon recess runs from 1:45-2:00pm. We will have a short snack time each day in the classroom at 9:45 a.m., right before our morning recess. Please send a *healthy* snack with your child everyday.

Your child is encouraged to bring a water bottle that they will be able to refill. Please make sure your child’s name is clearly marked on the water bottle.

Lunch is from 12:00-12:25pm each day in the Social Hall. Students have the option to bring a lunch from home or purchase a lunch. Please make sure your child knows when he/she needs to order a hot lunch to make the lunch count in the morning run smoothly.

## **Birthdays**

I welcome a celebration of your child’s special day in our classroom. Birthday celebrations are held at 2:30 on Friday afternoons. If he/she would like to share a snack\*

with the class, please let me know in advance so we can be cleaned up and ready to celebrate! Please bring the snack completely prepared and ready to eat. If your child's birthday falls on a non-school day or during the summer, we can arrange a day throughout the year to celebrate. Please remember to invite all students in the classroom to birthday parties, or all of the boys/girls. If you have another plan, please do not send invitations to school and remind your child not to discuss their party at school.

*\*Healthy snacks are encouraged: granola bars, popcorn, fruit/vegetables, breads/pastries, fruit snacks, etc.*

## Illness Policy

The school handbook states that:

“As concerns grow regarding flu outbreaks, it is important to know the following:

As a school, we will continue to emphasize hand washing at numerous times during the day, particularly before meals and after daily all-school events. Combining that with routine reminders to cover all coughs and sneezes remain the most important ways we can keep students healthy. We will also be monitoring students when they arrive each morning for flu and cold-like symptoms. Any child not appearing fully well will be referred to the office. If the office staff determines that a child cannot return to the classroom, you will be called. It is important that you arrange for pick-up as soon as possible as we do not have facilities to quarantine suspect cases. It is the parents' responsibility to make sure the child is cared for at home until the symptoms subside and he/she returns to normal (e.g., Elevated temperature free for 24 hours WITHOUT medication.) “

This is a reminder that we take our illness policy very seriously. If your child is ill, please keep him/her at home. For the sake of each child's health, we frequently wash hands and disinfect the classroom.

If your child is absent, especially if he/she is sick, *please* email me.

## Third Grade Curriculum

Language Arts:

To best support our K-5 students at SMS, our walk-to-read program is designed to allow students to move fluidly throughout the year between reading groups taught by various teachers. This will help teachers reach students best and provide them individually with the skills they need at their level. We will be using the Star Assessment Program to help us, as a staff, make decisions regarding reading.

In Monkey Reading, we will be reading selections from the Houghton Mifflin reading text. We will be focusing on comprehension skills (predicting, inferring, main idea and details, major themes, retelling/summarizing), fluency, self-monitoring strategies, writing skills, vocabulary, spelling, and extending our reading skills to other subjects. Toward the end of the year, we will read 1-2 novels as a class.

For spelling we will be using the spelling list within our reading curriculum. Students will be assessed on their spelling both in formal assessments (tests) as well as informal assessments (their everyday writing).

Writing is a part of our every day routine. We constantly practice complete sentences, capitalization and punctuation, correct spelling, and elaborative writing. Formally, we will be learning how to write a narrative paper, opinion paper, and a research paper throughout the year.

### Math:

We will be using the Math Connects program for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Students will work from a textbook and practice concepts with an interactive notebook, but will at times have handouts in the weekly homework packet. This year we will cover place value, multiplication and division, geometric figures, measurement, and fractions and decimals to name a few; however, our main focus will be on multiplication and division. As we near these two major topics, as much practice at home of the facts will best prepare your child for fourth grade math.

## Social Studies:

Our overall Social Studies theme is Community, focusing within the United States. We will be taking a look at community within geographic areas, America's early communities, community change over time, community government, economic choices, and people and culture.

## Science:

We will be using the Foss Kits for science where students will learn how to record data, observe, make connections, and work on description. We will begin with the Sun Moon, and Stars kit and later in the year move to the Water kit.

*Sun, Moon, and Stars:* The Sun, Moon, and Stars kit introduces students to the objects we see in the sky. Through outdoor observations during the day and at night, students study the sun, moon, and stars through active simulations, readings, videos, and discussions.

*Water:* The Water kit allows students to explore the properties, changes, and uses of water, as well as interactions between water and other earth materials.

A third science kit has been added to our curriculum. We will have the chance to explore *Weather and Climate Patterns* and the impact on people and the environment.

## Religion:

The *Blest Are We – Faith in Action* program goes through four major themes beginning with The Church is One, The Church is Holy, The Church is Catholic, and The Church is Apostolic, The Church Has a Mission to the World. There are two prayers that students need to memorize this year – The Apostles' Creed and Come Holy Spirit. Students should feel comfortable reciting communally – The Nicene Creed. Throughout the Liturgical Year, will focus on the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. In addition, we will

use the third grade Steps to Respect program, which enables students to find their voice and feel confident in solving conflicts on their own.

## **Homework**

We will have a weekly homework packet that goes home on Monday and is due back at school on Friday. All homework should be practice of content that was already taught in class. Students should be able to independently do their homework, as it is a way for me to check for understanding; however, I do ask that parents review the homework packet with their student before signing the cover sheet. If your child's homework is too difficult, please let me know and I will adjust accordingly. In the last couple months of school, we will be transitioning from weekly homework to nightly homework to prepare students for fourth grade. Homework will be posted on the teacher's website.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Dolch Word List**

Attached is the Dolch Word List, through grade 3. These are words that your child should be able to read and spell as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. Please practice these words with your child as they frequently come up in text.

## **Prayers**

The following are prayers that your child should know by the end of third grade. We will practice these prayers at school, but as much practice as possible is greatly appreciated.



### **Come Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the God the Father  
almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting Amen.

### **The Nicene Creed (to be recited communally, please practice reading with your child)**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the Only Begotten Son of God,  
 born of the Father before all ages.  
 God from God, Light from Light,  
 true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, consubstantial  
 with the Father;  
 through him all things were made.  
 For us men and for our salvation  
 he came down from heaven,  
  
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
 of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
 the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son  
 who with the Father and the Son  
 is adored and glorified,  
 who has spoken through the Prophets.

I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the  
 forgiveness of sins and I look forward  
 to the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

### Dolch Word Lists

Pre-Primer	Primer	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a</li> <li>• and</li> <li>• away</li> <li>• big</li> <li>• blue</li> <li>• can</li> <li>• come</li> <li>• down</li> <li>• find</li> <li>• for</li> <li>• funny</li> <li>• go</li> <li>• help</li> <li>• here</li> <li>• I</li> <li>• in</li> <li>• is</li> <li>• it</li> <li>• jump</li> <li>• little</li> <li>• look</li> <li>• make</li> <li>• me</li> <li>• my</li> <li>• not</li> <li>• one</li> <li>• play</li> <li>• red</li> <li>• run</li> <li>• said</li> <li>• see</li> <li>• the</li> <li>• three</li> <li>• to</li> <li>• two</li> <li>• up</li> <li>• we</li> <li>• where</li> <li>• yellow</li> <li>• you</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all</li> <li>• am</li> <li>• are</li> <li>• at</li> <li>• ate</li> <li>• be</li> <li>• black</li> <li>• brown</li> <li>• but</li> <li>• came</li> <li>• did</li> <li>• do</li> <li>• eat</li> <li>• four</li> <li>• get</li> <li>• good</li> <li>• have</li> <li>• he</li> <li>• into</li> <li>• like</li> <li>• must</li> <li>• new</li> <li>• no</li> <li>• now</li> <li>• on</li> <li>• our</li> <li>• out</li> <li>• please</li> <li>• pretty</li> <li>• ran</li> <li>• ride</li> <li>• saw</li> <li>• say</li> <li>• she</li> <li>• so</li> <li>• soon</li> <li>• that</li> <li>• there</li> <li>• they</li> <li>• this</li> <li>• too</li> <li>• under</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• want</li> <li>• was</li> <li>• well</li> <li>• went</li> <li>• what</li> <li>• white</li> <li>• who</li> <li>• will</li> <li>• with</li> <li>• yes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• after</li> <li>• again</li> <li>• an</li> <li>• any</li> <li>• as</li> <li>• ask</li> <li>• by</li> <li>• could</li> <li>• every</li> <li>• fly</li> <li>• from</li> <li>• give</li> <li>• giving</li> <li>• had</li> <li>• has</li> <li>• her</li> <li>• him</li> <li>• his</li> <li>• how</li> <li>• just</li> <li>• know</li> <li>• let</li> <li>• live</li> <li>• may</li> <li>• of</li> <li>• old</li> <li>• once</li> <li>• open</li> <li>• over</li> <li>• put</li> <li>• round</li> <li>• some</li> <li>• stop</li> <li>• take</li> <li>• thank</li> <li>• them</li> <li>• then</li> <li>• think</li> <li>• walk</li> <li>• were</li> <li>• when</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• always</li> <li>• around</li> <li>• because</li> <li>• been</li> <li>• before</li> <li>• best</li> <li>• both</li> <li>• buy</li> <li>• call</li> <li>• cold</li> <li>• does</li> <li>• don't</li> <li>• fast</li> <li>• first</li> <li>• five</li> <li>• found</li> <li>• gave</li> <li>• goes</li> <li>• green</li> <li>• its</li> <li>• made</li> <li>• many</li> <li>• off</li> <li>• or</li> <li>• pull</li> <li>• read</li> <li>• right</li> <li>• sing</li> <li>• sit</li> <li>• sleep</li> <li>• tell</li> <li>• their</li> <li>• these</li> <li>• those</li> <li>• upon</li> <li>• us</li> <li>• use</li> <li>• very</li> <li>• wash</li> <li>• which</li> <li>• why</li> <li>• wish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work</li> <li>• would</li> <li>• write</li> <li>• your</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>about</b></li> <li>• <b>better</b></li> <li>• <b>bring</b></li> <li>• <b>carry</b></li> <li>• <b>clean</b></li> <li>• <b>cut</b></li> <li>• <b>done</b></li> <li>• <b>draw</b></li> <li>• <b>drink</b></li> <li>• <b>eight</b></li> <li>• <b>fall</b></li> <li>• <b>far</b></li> <li>• <b>full</b></li> <li>• <b>got</b></li> <li>• <b>grow</b></li> <li>• <b>hold</b></li> <li>• <b>hot</b></li> <li>• <b>hurt</b></li> <li>• <b>if</b></li> <li>• <b>keep</b></li> <li>• <b>kind</b></li> <li>• <b>laugh</b></li> <li>• <b>light</b></li> <li>• <b>long</b></li> <li>• <b>much</b></li> <li>• <b>myself</b></li> <li>• <b>never</b></li> <li>• <b>only</b></li> <li>• <b>own</b></li> <li>• <b>pick</b></li> <li>• <b>seven</b></li> <li>• <b>shall</b></li> <li>• <b>show</b></li> <li>• <b>six</b></li> <li>• <b>small</b></li> <li>• <b>start</b></li> <li>• <b>ten</b></li> <li>• <b>today</b></li> <li>• <b>together</b></li> <li>• <b>try</b></li> <li>• <b>warm</b></li> </ul>
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## Kid-Friendly Webpages

Here is a list of fun website that you can navigate with your child. My students in

the past have really enjoyed them! These are all a great option to help reinforce what we are learning in the classroom, as well as challenge or interest your child beyond the classroom curriculum. Enjoy!

<http://www.kidfriendlysearch.com> has links to multiple webpages, grouped by subject area.

## **Math**

- [xtramath.org](http://xtramath.org)
- [ixl.com](http://ixl.com)
- [coolmath.com](http://coolmath.com)
- <http://www.mathletics.com>
- <http://www.mortgagecalculator.org/helpful-advice/calculators-for-kids.php>

## **Language Arts**

- [http://www.abcya.com/third\\_grade\\_computers.htm](http://www.abcya.com/third_grade_computers.htm)
- [kidsspell.com](http://kidsspell.com)
- <http://www.supersummary.com/spelling-guide/>

## **Science**

- <http://discoverykids.com>
- <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>
- <http://wonderopolis.org>

## **Social Studies**

- <http://kids.usa.gov/social-studies/>
- <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>
- <http://www.thechildrensmuseum.org/info.asp>

## **Art**

- [nga.gov/kids/kids.htm](http://nga.gov/kids/kids.htm)

## **Multiple Subjects**

- [sheppardsoftware.com](http://sheppardsoftware.com)
- [funbrain.com](http://funbrain.com)
- <http://www.neok12.com> (videos about different subjects)
- <http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - 2017-2018

### Mrs. Balinbin's Class Schedule

	8:30-8:45	8:45-9:45	9:45-10:00 / 10:00-10:15	10:15-10:45	10:45-11:30	11:30-12:00/ 12:00-12:25	12:25-1:00	1:00-1:45	1:45-2:00	2:00-2:45
<b>Monday</b>	Entry, Prayer, Pledge	W2R	Snack/ Recess	Religion	W2M	Recess/ Lunch	SS/ Science	Music	<b>Recess</b>	SS/ Science
<b>Tuesday</b>	Entry, Prayer, Pledge	W2R	Snack/ <b>Recess</b>	Religion	W2M	Recess/ Lunch	Religion	PE	Recess	Writing
<b>Wednesday</b>	Entry, Prayer, Pledge	Mass		Snack/ Handwriting	W2M	Recess/ Lunch	Rest and Read 12:30-12:45	Writing 12:45-1:45	<b>Recess</b>	SS/ Science
<b>Thursday</b>	Entry, Prayer, Pledge	W2R	Snack/ Recess	Religion	W2M	Recess/ Lunch	Religion	Art	<b>Recess</b>	SS/ Science
<b>Friday</b>	Entry, Prayer, Pledge	W2R	Snack/ Recess	Religion	W2M	Recess/ <b>Lunch</b>	Religion	Art	Recess	SS/ Science