3rd GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

- The steps of the writing process are developed through essays intended to persuade, inform, and entertain in several subject areas. Grade level grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and sentence mechanics are incorporated within these authentic writing assignments. While students continue to develop their cursive writing skills, they are also introduced to basic keyboarding. Basic keyboarding skills will be helpful with the increased use of laptops for writing and research in third grade.
- Across the curriculum, students read with grade level fluency and comprehension for all subject areas. A transition from "learn to read" to "read to learn" is evident in third grade students. Students begin to incorporate novels and informational texts of their choice for class assignments and monthly book reports.
- Students continue to develop math skills including multiplication, division, place value through millions, geometry, fractions, and problem solving strategies connected to real life scenarios.
- Students learn about the following science and social studies concepts, including:
    - Economics o Historical events
    - Citizenship
    - Energy and Forces
    - Changes in Matter
    - Earth and its place in the solar system
    - Comparison between rocks and minerals

MATH:

Text: Saxon Math and IXL Online Our Math text supports and embraces the belief that all students should learn important mathematical concepts and processes with understanding. The objective of each lesson is clearly stated. Instruction and assignments help students gain mastery of concepts and skills. Curriculum includes:

- Place Value
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Division
- Measurement
- Geometry

- Decimals
- Fractions

The use of flashcards for mastery and accuracy is strongly suggested to be done for practice at home.

READING:

Text: Saxon Phonics The Diocese of Jefferson City sets rigorous standards for reading and writing. Reading curriculum includes literature, comprehension, phonics, phonological awareness and vocabulary. Our daily reading class will include lessons in:

- Phonics and Phonemes
- Vocabulary
- Reading aloud and silently
- Study skills
- Comprehension
    - Taking comprehension tests on Accelerated Reader
- Writing

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING:

Language Arts include reading, writing, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and listening skills, study skills, punctuation, speech, usage, and mechanics. A very strong emphasis will be placed on the six traits of writing:

- Narrative
- Explanatory
- Persuasive
- Comparison
- Expository
- Fiction Grammar includes:
    - Types of sentences
    - Nouns (common, proper, possessive)
    - Pronouns
    - Verbs
    - Adjectives
    - Adverbs

WRITING:

Students will use writing to convey meaning. They will:

- Use the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, publishing
- Write effectively using words and pictures to convey thoughts
- Write sentences about a topic (opinion, informative, narrative)
- Apply spelling knowledge
- Apply grammar (nouns, verbs, adjectives, contractions) in writing
- Apply mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, complete sentences) in writing
- Apply neat writing of uppercase and lowercase letters and numbers

SPELLING:

Each week we will teach a spelling lesson, and most weeks there will be a written test on Friday. We will stress the recognition of structural similarities or spelling pattern, as well as phonetic similarities. Students are asked to study for weekly spelling tests with a parent. Review tests encompassing the past several lessons will be given at times. In our daily work and homework, correct spelling is encouraged. We will teach it in the writing process (prewriting, writing, revising, proofreading, and publishing).

HANDWRITING:

Our emphasis in Third Grade is cursive writing. Cursive writing was introduced and taught in Grade 2. Many of our students know how to form their letters; some have difficulty joining a particular letter to other letters to form words; and some need more practice due to fine motor control problems. Handwriting will emphasize the correct strokes in writing the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet, and connecting these letters to other letters to form words. Assignments are to be done in Cursive Writing whenever possible.

RELIGION:

Text: Gospel Weekly

Using a three step Catechetical process:

- Invite—invites the learner through engaging reflections that draw on the experience of the learner.
- Explore—explores the living traditions of our Catholic faith as it is expressed in scripture and doctrine. Throughout the use of stories, literary forms, and questions students enter more deeply into the content and connect faith with their lives.
- Celebrate—Students celebrate what they believe through prayer celebrations (praise, litanies, etc.)
- Gospel Weekly—which coordinates with each week's Sunday Gospel

Each morning, we pray together as a school by doing the Sign of the Cross followed by the Morning Offering. Students pray before and after meals, as well as at 2:00pm when the school participates in "Stop, drop and pray!" The students gather at dismissal to pray the Angel of God prayer before we dismiss for the day.

SCIENCE:

Text: Scholastic News

Our Science text is aligned with national and state standards. It uses an inquiry approach to explore Science concepts through "hands-on" and "minds-on" activities. Many involve close observation.

Curriculum includes:

- Life Science: Plants, animals, and their environments
- Physical Science: Matter, forces, simple machines, energy, and sound
- Earth Science: Properties of Earth materials; effects of volcanoes, Earthquakes, wind and water; clouds and storms
- The Solar System
- The Human Body: Systems of the body and personal health
- Future Science Project: Planet research paper and visual aid

SCHOLASTIC NEWS:

Students will use "Scholastic News" for Current Events. It is a rich source of current issues, and is very enriching for Social Studies and Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Text: Scholastic News

Social Studies text in Third Grade is "Communities." Every chapter in the book provides rich, comprehensive content that captures the students' imagination and, hopefully, makes them more eager to learn. It is also provides explicit reading and writing instruction that builds understanding and prepares the students for testing. The series emphasizes geography, thinking, charts and graphs, research, and map and globe skills.

The content of the Third Grade curriculum includes focus on:

- Our Community
- People in Our Communities
- Where Are Communities
- History of Communities
- Communities at Work
- Governments

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

We attend Music, Art, and Library once a week and Physical Education twice a week. Students have recess twice daily, as well as lunch. Students also perform in the St. Joseph Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert.