



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet 3rd Grade

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Charism, Vision and Mission

"Unless our Catholic philosophy and way of life are taught religiously, our civilization will be founded on sand." -- Father Junipero Serra

CHARISM

Inspiring a deep faith, innovative mind, and caring heart through Christ... Siempre Adelante

VISION

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School is valued as a leading Diocesan Catholic Parish Elementary School located in South Orange County, California. Motivated by the teachings of Blessed Junipero Serra, and the persevering spirit of our founding families, we nurture our students to live and model their Catholic faith as servant leaders of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Serra students are encouraged to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve the challenges of this ever-changing world.

MISSION

Rooted in the Catholic faith, evangelical vision, and spirit, the community of St. Junipero Serra Catholic School welcomes families from the parishes of Holy Trinity, San Francisco Solano, Santiago de Compostela, and St. Kilian, and surrounding communities. Inspired by the gospel values and in a Christ-centered environment, we provide a nourishing community for students to develop their seeds of faith and gifts to live as true disciples and servants of Christ. Our academic programs promote student success through a challenging and diverse curriculum meeting the varied learning needs and unique potential of the whole child.

SCHOOL-WIDE STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- A Catholic, Christ-Centered Life That Serves God and Others
- An Engaged and Active Life-Long Learner
- A Respect and Reverence for Human Dignity and Diversity
- A Passion to Share and Lead with One's God-Given Gifts

Dear Third Grade Parents,

Mrs. Salazar, Mrs. Kennelly, Mrs. Aguirre, Mrs. Dimler and I welcome you to St. Junipero Serra and we thank you for joining us at Back-to-School Night. The purpose of this evening is to provide a curricular overview for your child's academic year including the syllabus, the daily schedule, highlights of the school year and a chance to meet your child's teacher. Attendance and participation at Back-to-School Night signifies your partnership with the school in meeting the unique learning needs of your child. Thank you for your commitment and your time!

We are so blessed to have four incredibly talented, experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will provide a wonderful, positive and creative learning environment for your child. They will be working to help your child develop skills in all religious, academic, emotional, social, and physical areas. Above all, they will be fostering a love for God and love for learning.

We look forward to a great year. I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School.

Mrs. Carol Reiss
Principal, Pre-School - Grade 4

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Lead Principal/Administrator - ttolzda@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Pre-School-Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5-8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal Pre-School-Grade 4 - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Elena Stokes, Assistant Principal Grades 5-8 - estokes@serraschool.org
Ms. Michelle DeLeon, Assistant to the Principal, Preschool-Grade 4 - mdeleon@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

Mrs. Sally Salazar, 3A – ssalazar@serraschool.org
Mrs. Susan Kennelly, 3B – skennelly@serraschool.org
Mrs. Lisa Aguirre, 3C – laguirre@serraschool.org
Mrs. Lauren Dimler, 3D – ldimler@serraschool.org

Small Group and Advanced Plus Teachers:

Mrs. Jodi Howard, Small Group ELA/Literacy and Math – jhoward@serraschool.org
Mrs. Sylvia Peterson, Advanced Plus ELA/Literacy and Math – speterson@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

TBD: Music
Mrs. Sheela Rao, Art – srao@serraschool.org
Mrs. Kim Biasca, Creativity Lab – kbiasca@serraschool.org
Mrs. Taryn Guillen, Physical Education – jrodriguez@serraschool.org

E-mail is the most effective way to reach us. For your convenience, teacher email addresses have been provided to you. Please allow a 24 hour response time, except weekends and holidays. If your question or

concern requires a phone call, please call (949) 888-1990 and speak to the receptionist. She will route your call based on the level of importance. Please know that the teachers' primary responsibilities are the safety, supervision, and education of your child during the school day. Checking emails and phone messages may not happen during the school day because teachers' primary responsibility is to supervise students during the school day.

Third Grade Curriculum

Third grade is a transitional year from the primary to the intermediate grades as the students begin their journey as independent learners. Thus, a major theme for third grade is teaching the children organizational skills, time management, and personal responsibility.

Grading Policy Final grades will be determined by the following:

80% Authentic Assessment

20% Approaches to Learning

*ELA - is 70% Authentic Assessment, 20% Approaches to Learning and 10% for Accelerated Reader

Students in the Third Grade will be assessed on the Diocesan Achievement Scale and will receive a percentage grade on their Student Learning Assessment. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for the scale.

Formative assessment The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching, and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- a chapter or unit test
- a final project
- a research paper/essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

Religion: The third grade curriculum embraces the theme, "The Church leads us in worship." Children will learn about the origins, characteristics, and work of the Church, how we celebrate the liturgical year, how to live the Great Commandment, how to pray using the four basic kinds of prayer, the seven sacraments, the four marks of the Church, how to locate Bible verses, and the parts of the Mass. They will also discover how people work together to serve their parish and community, and how to live as witnesses of Jesus Christ through acts of generosity and caring.

Family Life Program: During the third trimester the third grade students will begin studying the family life component of our religion curriculum. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and

that the Church and school community serve as partners with the family in that regard. It is the responsibility of the school to educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the Church. We are truly blessed to have your child as a member of the Serra community.

Benziger Family Life is the series that has been adopted school-wide. This program reflects and reinforces a major priority in the Church today: the preservation of the fundamental importance and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of Christian family life.

A copy of the ***Benziger Family Life Parent Connection*** is part of this packet. Please take time to review this resource and keep it as a reference. The content page outlines each of the topics that we will cover during our study of this program. The subject themes will include: God's Gifts of Family, Self, Life, Love, and Community. Any reference to the human reproduction system will be taught in 5th and 6th grades.

Should you have any questions, please direct them to your child's homeroom teacher. You have the opportunity to choose if their child will participate in this program. Attached you will find the Family Life Participation Acknowledgment Form. Thank you for your participation and support of this very important program.

Text: *We Believe*, Grade Three Publisher: William H. Sadlier, Inc. copyright 2015
Website: www.webelieve.com

Family Life – Grade Three Publisher: RCL Benziger, copyright 2011

Social Studies: Students in grade three learn about our connections to the past, as well as continuity and change in their own locality and nation. Emphasis is on the physical and cultural landscape of Orange County, along with its history, first inhabitants, and natural resources. Other topics include the study of Native Americans, communities, current events, geography and map skills, national heroes and symbols, timelines, cultural and national holidays.

Text: *History-Social Science – Communities* Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company – copyright 2007
Simple Solutions Social Studies Publisher: Bright Ideas Press – copyright 2020

Science: Third grade science follows the Next Generation Science Standards, focusing on the study of Life Cycles and Reproduction, Weather and Climate, Inheritance, Engineering practices, and Force and Motion.

Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. Students will progress in their understanding of these concepts through hands-on investigations, experimentation, and culminating projects.

Online Resource: Mystery Science is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards. Each Mystery is aligned to a topic, performance expectations, science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross-cutting practices.

English Language Arts/Literacy: St. Junipero Serra's Language Arts Program is called *Reading Wonders*. The program is designed specifically for the new Common Core State Standards for Reading/Language Arts.

Reading Wonders is a comprehension program that integrates spelling, vocabulary, grammar, phonics, writing, research, and study skills. Our instruction includes a balanced approach to teaching Language Arts by developing critical thinking skills, analyzing text, building real-life connections, and strengthening communication skills.

Reading Text: *Reading Wonders*

Publisher: McGraw-Hill Companies, copyright 2014

Reading Wonders - Literature Anthology Reading Wonders - Reading/Writing Workshop

Supplemental Text: *Simple Solutions Common Core Grammar & Mechanics, Copyright 2020*

Novel Study: *Third Grade Angels* by Jerry Spinelli

The One and Only Ivan by K.A. Applegate

The Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White

Accelerated Reader: Accelerated Reader encourages the love of reading with accountability. A list of books by reading level (ATOS) of each book can be found at www.arbookfind.com. The ATOS measures are based on four characteristics of the book (average sentence length, average word length, vocabulary grade level and the number of words in the book). This is similar to a Lexile number which is based on two characteristics of a book (sentence length and word frequency).

Students will be graded on comprehension and reading points earned. Each child will be assigned an individualized goal for each trimester determined by his/her score on the STAR Reading test. Tests may only be taken one time. This is to encourage the student to read carefully each time they read a book. The student will earn points based on the percentage they earn on each quiz. This percentage grade will be part of the overall reading grade.

Additional resources can be found on the St. Serra website under Academics> Library > Accelerated Reader.

Cursive: The Common Core Curriculum Standards for third grade language arts was recently updated to include cursive writing.

A Reason for Handwriting – Cursive C Publisher: The Concerned Group, Inc. copyright 2010

Math Text: Savvas formally known as **Pearson enVision MATH 2.0** Publisher: Pearson Education, Copyright 2016

Supplemental Text: *Simple Solutions- Common Core Mathematics* Publisher: Bright Ideas Press, Copyright 2020

We follow the Common Core Curriculum Standards for third grade mathematics, which places an emphasis on number sense, algebra and functions, measurement and geometry, and statistics, data, and probability. Core topics include place value, estimation, regrouping of large numbers in addition and subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions. All teachers use differentiation strategies in an effort to enhance and enrich the curriculum as needed to both challenge and ensure success for all the students. Hands-on activities and

manipulatives are employed at all levels to encourage exploration and understanding of mathematical concepts.

Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math®. Created by MIND Research Institute, ST Math is game-based instructional software for K-12 and is designed to boost math comprehension and proficiency through visual learning. Integrating with classroom instruction and identified by the CEO-led Change the Equation as one of just four STEM programs ready to scale nationally, ST Math incorporates the latest research in learning and the brain and promotes mastery-based learning and mathematical understanding. The ST Math software games use interactive, graphically-rich animations that visually represent mathematical concepts to improve conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills.

What is Spatial-Temporal Reasoning? Born out of neuroscience research at the University of California, Irvine, MIND’s unique approach accesses the brain’s innate “spatial-temporal” reasoning ability. This ability, which lies at the core of innovative thinking and sophisticated problem-solving, allows the brain to hold visual, mental representations in short-term memory and to evolve them in both space and time, thinking multiple steps ahead. MIND’s approach consists of language-independent, animated representations of math concepts delivered via the Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math® software games.

Seesaw

An on-line student portfolio used by students to show accomplishments towards curriculum standards and Student Learning Expectations.

All Specialty Elective classes will use the 4-1 grading rubrics

- 4 Consistently Meets Standards/Expectations
- 3 Frequently Meets Standards/Expectations
- 2 Occasionally Meets Standards/Expectations
- 1 Rarely Meets Standards/Expectations

Art: Ms. Sheela Rao

All 3rd grade students are required to have an art sketchbook (8.5 x 11 spiral bound), which is available for purchase through online vendors and various stores. The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Art Program offers students the opportunity to understand, interpret, and appreciate the visual arts by exploring their creative potential through hands-on art projects. Emphasis is on creative exploration and manipulation of various art mediums. Students will expand their knowledge by developing and building upon their art vocabulary while learning and applying the art elements successfully; to create their own masterpieces. Students will discover that the creative process is a lifelong way to express their personal world, ideas, and emotions. Technology is integrated into the art curriculum to view and critique famous masterpieces.

Music: TBD

All 3rd grade students are required to have a recorder, which can be purchased in the online student spirit store. Students will participate in Recorder Karate throughout the school year. As students’ progress, they will earn “karate belts” for their recorder skills. Students may be asked to bring their laptops to Music class to go to a website and listen to music, complete worksheets, and work on projects. In addition to performing in the Christmas Concert and Orange County Play, students will participate in games, laptop activities, hands on instrument activities, recorder quizzes and much more music fun! Students will be assessed by how well they understand and apply musical concepts and by how well they participate in class.

Creativity Lab: Mrs. Kim Biasca

In the Creativity Lab students will discover a “playground for learning.” The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs puts technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, reading, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STREAM) while building critical 21st century skills. Young learners will engage in hands-on projects and experiences ranging from computer graphics & digital media arts to circuitry & robotics. Students will be learning and exploring with Zometools, Botley the Coding Robot, Knex, Ozobots, Snap Circuits, Osmo, Makey Makey and so much more.

3rd Grade Physical Education: Mrs. Taryn Guillen

Program Goals:

The St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Physical Education Program focuses on two main areas of student development and learning.

1. As part of the School Wide Learning Expectations at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School the students participate in a physical education program that creates “a reverence for one’s own Physical being” and “a positive and realistic self-image”.
2. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.

Description:

Students will have PE class twice a week. The goal of Physical Education at St. Serra Catholic is to teach students to develop healthy living habits that will last a lifetime. We accomplish that by having students participate in a wide variety of activities, sports, and challenges that will increase their physical, social, and mental abilities, as well as teamwork and cooperation skills. We hope to provide a safe, fun, and motivating class that will encourage all students to want to participate, have fun and try their best.

UPPER ELEMENTARY (3rd and 4th)

We continue to work on the above concepts, but also include:

Team Building, Brain/Body Connection, Goal Setting, Learning of the major muscles and functions, Various sport skills and lead-up games

Uniform Policy:

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. During the winter months students may wear the designated school sweats or solid-colored white, navy, or black leggings under their PE shorts.

4. Closed toe *athletic* shoes that are fit for running, secured on the foot, are required for all PE classes.
5. The school policy, regarding PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to wear their Formal Uniform with athletic shoes until after the designated event for the day. For further details see the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook

Assessing

Students will be assessed in the areas of skill performance/content taught, and appropriate behavior and safety in class. Assessments will follow this learning progression scale:

Grading Scale

- 4- Student exceeds the standard. The student was able to apply, explain, analyze, etc. what was learned.
- 3- Student met the standard. The student was able to demonstrate important concepts and skills taught.
- 2- Student is progressing toward the standard. The student can recall basic/some information about concepts and skills taught. Prompting may be required
- 1- Student is progressing toward the standard but requires assistance. Student has a limited ability to complete tasks independently.

****Rubrics Standards Based Grading:*

O = Outstanding, 90% and above

S = Successful, 70% - 89.99%

E = Emerging, Needs growth in this area, below 69.99%

Injuries and Sickness:

- If your child is sick or has a condition which limits the ability to participate in physical education class, please be sure to notify your child's homeroom teacher and PE teacher via email.
- During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if they are still able to participate.
- Any condition that requires the student to miss two consecutive days or more of PE will require a medical note from the doctor. The note should specify the injury and specific limitations as well as the specific date your child may resume regular activity in PE class.
- All notes for injuries or other information must be delivered, or sent via e-mail to the PE teacher, Mrs. Taryn Guillen, at tguillen@serraschool.org by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the PE class.
- If there is a discipline problem, the student will be given a verbal warning; if the problem persists it will be communicated by the PE teacher via phone call to the parent.

Here are some things that will help make PE as fun and SAFE as possible this year:

1. Everyone MUST wear sneakers for safety on their PE days!!!
2. Follow signals– Stop – Look – Listen
3. Be a good listener
4. Cooperate and play by the rules
5. Careful when in motion
6. Try your best

I continuously set clear expectations for the students for each class in helping them succeed to become lifelong movers! I am looking forward to a great year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School. If you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school, stop by, or email me.

Third Grade Absences Due to Medical/Dental Appointments: While we recognize the importance of routine medical check-ups, along with the difficulty of available after school appointment times, absences will affect your child's academic performance.

Homework Policy: Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework assigned is to reinforce the learning that has taken place each day, as an anticipatory set, or unfinished classwork. Studying for tests and quizzes may require additional homework time.

Homework assigned will fit into one of these categories:

- Math Drills – students should practice math facts daily.
- Reinforcement – Activities will be assigned to reinforce concepts learned in class each day.
- Review – Students should spend time at home studying and preparing for tests.
- Reading – Students are required to read books from the Accelerated Reader recommended list at their reading level, either silently or to an adult daily.
- Unfinished Work – Incomplete class work be sent home to be completed.
- Research – Work involving the use of newspapers, library books, or the internet will be assigned periodically.

Students are expected to refer to Canvas Homework Page on days when absent. Homework assignments will be posted on the Canvas Homework Page for each subject. Failure to complete homework may result in a lower overall score. Students will still be expected to turn in the work the following school day.

Assessment Make-Ups: When a student is absent on the day of a test or assessment, he/she will be expected to take the test on the day of return. In the case of extended absences due to illness or family emergencies,

parents will need to contact the teacher(s) and make individual arrangements. If a student is absent, make-up tests will be administered upon the student's return.

Third Grade Information

Conferences: We are available to conference with parents concerning their child, and we will be happy to arrange a time to meet with you. Please contact the teacher by sending an email to request an appointment. We will respond to the message as soon as possible. Formal conferences will be held in October.

Field Trips and Curricular Enrichment

- Third Grade Retreat – TBA
- The History of Orange County Presentation – TBA
- California Indian Tribe - Gabrielinos Field Study – TBA

Classroom Management: While the focus of the classroom is to support and encourage good behavior, it is important that both students and parents understand consequences for inappropriate behavior. If a student continues to display inappropriate behavior, he/she will be issued a yellow behavior card to document communication home and plan for change in said behavior. Students will write a parent letter to share strategies and explain the incident that resulted in the yellow card. This should be signed and returned the next day. We will be recognizing good deeds and behavior with Gotcha Cards, tickets, and privileges. Each third grade classroom has an incentive system to encourage Christian behavior.

Class Rules

- Students will keep their hands, feet, and objects to themselves.
- Students will raise their hand before speaking or standing.
- Students will keep the classroom neat and clean.
- Students will be respectful to their teachers and classmates.
- Students will use their time productively and stay on-task.
- Students will be prepared with their work and materials.
- Students will listen attentively and follow directions.

Dress Code: Please read the Dress Code policy for Third Grade in the school wide Parent Handbook. If your child is not in the proper dress, your child will be verbally reminded. Repeated disregard to the dress code policy will result in a yellow discipline card as well.

Personal Possessions: All items brought to school by your child (clothing, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) should be labeled with his/her first and last name. No toys, valuables, etc. should be brought to school. Students may not play electronic games or bring toys to play with during dismissal.

Birthdays: Students may wear non-uniform dress to school on their birthday unless it's a formal uniform day (i.e. Mass). If that occurs, we'll choose an alternate day for non-uniform dress. Students may bring in small trinkets to share with their homeroom. No edible treats will be shared at recess or lunch time.

You may also choose to purchase a book for our school library in honor of your child's birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on a child's half-birthday. Please contact your student's homeroom teacher to schedule birthday celebrations.

Homework Club: Begins September 6, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:00. This program has been developed for students who are challenged by completing their homework in a timely manner, need additional assistance with assignments, may forget to do the assigned homework, turn in homework after the due date, or who may turn in the assignments without completing the work.

Homework Club will provide a structured small class-size environment, void of distractions enabling students an atmosphere free to review their assignments, organize their school notes and create a process for completing their assignments in manageable portions. Students will receive small group attention and motivation in a warm and encouraging atmosphere. The goal is that every child finishes their homework during the hour, but some work may still need to be completed at home. For example, studying for upcoming tests, quizzes, and/or make-up work for absences. There will be one Homework Club class per grade level.

Yellow Weekly Work Folders will be sent home on Thursdays each week. Any corrected classwork and tests will be sent home in these folders. Please check your child's folder, review the work with your child, and return the empty folder the following day.

Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.

The Third Grade Teaching Team



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back-to-School Night ~ Third Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**

Please return the completed form to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, September 9, 2022.

We have read the Third Grade Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (printed)

Student Signature Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature Date

E-mail Contact Information: _____

Best Number to Reach Parents during the School Day:



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Third Grade
Family Life Program Participation Acknowledgement**

Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by September 9, 2022.

Student’s Name and Homeroom _____

Please indicate your choices below by marking them with an “X”.

_____ I do grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

_____ I do **not** grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in the religion class.

Parent Name _____ Date _____
(Print)

Parent Signature: _____

Comments:

