



**SPECIAL EDITION OF
3RD GRADE
NEWS:**

**HOW TO
STUDY
FOR TESTS
IN
3RD GRADE**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

To help you with the transition from a second grade assessment format to my 3rd grade assessment format, I have created this handy section in my classroom handbook to give both the child and the parent an understanding of what to expect concerning assessments and grades. I grade by using percentage points. Not everything on a test is worth the same amount of percentage points. For example, short answer questions are normally 4-5 percentage points where as a multiple choice question would only be worth 2 percentage points. By using percentage points, children are able to earn a more realistic grade.

It is important to know that many assessments are also done through observation and the use of the arts through out our 3rd grade curriculum. I may have them create something using a specific form of art such as music, theater, drama, or visual arts. Often times, it will be their choice, but sometimes I will pick the art form to help expose them to the vast amount of ways there are to learn. It is not always about a written test. And when it is a written test, you can be assured I will have in-depth, thought provoking questions that may or may not have one correct answer. My goal is to get them thinking, keep them thinking, and have them be able to correctly justify their thinking.

In order to give the children immediate feed-back, which is something I appreciated from my teachers when I was in school, I will normally grade their assessments as they turn them in to me.

When all tests/assessments are graded, I will allow them time to look at their test and ask questions. If I see any common mistakes, we will discuss them as a class. Once in a while, I will see a common mistake and take responsibility for obviously not covering the subject matter as thoroughly as I should have. I would never want the students to think I have tried to trick them or test them unfairly. Sign papers will come home the following Tuesday to be signed by the parent and the child then returned to school by Thursday. I have to account for all papers each week. Please go over sign papers TOGETHER and TALK about what was done well and any mistakes that need to be addressed. Often times the best learning comes from learning from our mistakes.

Grading Scale for Annunciation Catholic School 3rd-7th Grades is the following:

90-100/A
80-89/B
75-79/C
70-75/D
69 and below/F

Please note the school handbook requires any student earning status of Honor Roll or Principal's List for a 9 weeks MUST have a S or E for their over-all Effort AND Conduct. I have had children in the past qualify for Honor Roll or Principal's List BUT have an N for their Effort and/or Conduct. This automatically voids their status for either honor.

If you come across anything using the arts - drama, music, visual arts, or theater in ANY subject, please share your findings with the class. Your findings may help us explore a concept using another approach to make practicing the initial concept not perfect but permanent!!!

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE SPELLING TESTS

Starting on Monday, try to study a just little bit every day. Use your child's pre-test to know which words to focus on with more effort. Each night have your child spell their words orally, write them, type them, play a game with them, cut words out of magazines to spell the words, use art to create words, make a song if that helps! Use time in the car traveling from one place to another. It may take about 10 minutes each night, but by Thursday night your child will not be cramming the night before the test!

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE DLP TESTS

On Monday, we complete sentences 1, 2, & 3 in class and check. On Tuesday, we complete sentences 4 & 5 in class and check. This semester I will always give them a DLP Practice Sheet for the test on Tuesday night. BUT before using the practice sheet, your child needs to study from their DLP book. After studying well, then they take out the practice sheet and pretend it is the real thing. They can use their DLP book to check their practice test and focus their attention to any items they missed. I **DO** expect the children to return the practice sheet to school on Wednesday completed with the correct answers as proof that they studied. In the past, I have had children, as well as my own children, have someone type the sentences out at home and print another practice page on their own or make copies of the one I send before writing on it. Save the DLP pages if you make them on your own computer so your child has them to use to practice for the two additional DLP sentences I will use from previous tests each week. They will never know which previous sentences I will pick, so **ALWAYS** see what your child misses from week to week on their DLP test so when they see that sentence again they do not make the same mistake(s).

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE RELIGION TESTS

When studying for religion tests, always use the study guide the children complete and check in class & the religion book. But make sure when you are asking them questions from the study guide or from the book to always re-word the questions so that are not memorizing the way the questions are given on the study guide. Children need to **KNOW** the information so no matter how it is given on the test...multiple choice, fill in the blank from a word bank, matching, and simple short answers...they know the answer! Religion test normally only have 10 questions which makes each question worth 10 points. For this reason, I give them all the opportunity to turn in the worship bulletins each Monday for a 100/A+ daily grade. In a 9 week grading period, this could be up to nine easy 100/A+ daily grades.

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE ENGLISH TESTS

Use the chapter from the book, all notes in English folder, and any handouts we have done for class work or homework. There is also a great section at the end of each chapter that has “Extra Practice” for each lesson of the chapter. Looking at correct answers in their folder to study DOES NOT mean your child knows the information. Children need to actually work some sentences from each section in the chapter or at the end of the chapter in the “Extra Practice” to make sure they can apply what they have learned to new sentences!!!! Anytime we look at things already completed or answered we assume we know it when actually we do not!

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE QUICK CHECK QUIZZES & MATH CHAPTER TESTS

QUICK CHECK QUIZZES: Use the book to review lessons the Quick Check Quiz is covering as well as any handouts/worksheets/workbooks that cover those lessons as well. Work a few of each of the problems from each section on the pages being covered on the Quick Check Quiz. Always use your child’s Practice Workbook and Homework Workbook for additional practice especially on problems such as the even ones that we did not do in class or for homework. (These workbooks are not here yet, but the children have these pages glued in their math folder.)

CHAPTER TEST: Use the chapter from the book, all notes in Math folder, and any handouts we have done for class work or homework. There are Quick Check Quizzes throughout the chapter and a Chapter Review at the end of each chapter. Looking at correct answers in their folder to study DOES NOT mean your child know show to work the problems. Children need to actually work problems from each lesson to make sure they can apply what they have learned to new problems!!!! Anytime we look at things already worked out or answered we assume we know it when actually we do not!

HOW TO STUDY FOR 3rd GRADE READING TEST

Each night of the week starting with Monday, go over the Vocabulary Words and Support Words. We go over these EVERY DAY in a variety of ways to help the children learn them. I will NEVER ask them to spell these words on their own unless one happens to be a spelling word. At the beginning, Reading Tests will cover the Vocabulary & Support Words and questions about the story we have read and discussed ALL week. Children need to use their Reading Workbooks to help study as well as the story from their reading book. In about a month, the children will still be assessed on the Vocabulary & Support Words and have a few questions about the story from the week, but they will also have a “cold read”, which is a short story they have never seen before. The best way to be prepared for a “cold read” is to make sure you are reading, reading, reading! Make sure your child ALWAYS has a good book to read!

HOW TO STUDY FOR A 3RD GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES TEST

1. Always use the Chapter Review at the end of the chapter. This is not the test but it is a great review! We will always do it in class and check it, or they will do it for homework and we will check it.
2. Go page by page through the chapter and talk about the pages briefly, preferably to somebody not to yourself!
3. Always look back at the pictures. Remember, publishers put the pictures there for a reason...to make a point to the reader!!
4. At the end of each lesson there is a section called “Main Ideas” to review and a section called “Thinking About It” to discuss. Make sure you go over both!!
5. Often in a chapter there are special sections such as page 22-23 & 30-31. If we have done it in class, study it. If we have chosen to skip it in class, you are not responsible for it!
6. Review any handouts you have about the chapter you are studying.
7. Learning to study as a 3rd grader will make a difference for years to come. If you review on your own, make sure someone asks you questions when you are done! If you review with someone, make sure they are question asker and you are the answer giver.
8. Make studying fun. Tell the person you are studying with anything we have talked about in class that you think is interesting. Tell the person you are studying with how what you are studying in social studies relates or connects to another subject.

As a class we thoroughly do all the above. It is imperative you study with somebody – an adult, a teenage sibling, or a baby-sitter- who can make sure you’ve “GOT IT!”

HOW TO STUDY FOR A 3RD GRADE SCIENCE TEST

1. Always use the Chapter Review at the end of the chapter. This is not the test but it is a great review! We will always do it in class and check it, or they will do it for homework and we will check it.
2. Go page by page through the chapter and talk about the pages briefly, preferably to somebody not to yourself!
3. Always look back at the pictures. Remember, publishers put the pictures there for a reason...to make a point to the reader-the reader being you and me!!
4. At the end of each lesson there are ALWAYS review questions at the end of EVERY lesson. Make sure you go over the questions even if they are on a handout or in the end of the chapter review!!
5. Review any handouts you have about the chapter you are studying.
6. Learning to study as a 3rd grader will make a difference for years to come. If you review on your own, make sure someone asks you questions when you are done! If you review with someone, make sure they are the question asker and you are the answer giver.
7. Make studying fun. Tell the person you are studying with anything we have talked about in class that you think is interesting. Tell the person you are studying with how what you are studying in social studies relates or connects to another subject.

As a class we thoroughly do all the above. It is imperative you study with somebody – an adult, a teenage sibling, or a baby-sitter- who can make sure you’ve “GOT IT!”