**Dear Parents, August 2023**

**Welcome to 3rd grade**!! I hope each of you has had a safe and enjoyable summer. After a busy summer, I am looking forward to working with each of you as we guide and teach your child together. I want to welcome Elsi Aguilar, Michael Gutierrez, and Connor Questad and their families to SCS this year!! We also welcome back Alaina Koopmans and Tori Slegers and their families. We are so happy that you all have joined us! :)

Our **theme** for this year is **“Experience God.”** We will be focused on learning about God and our relationship with Him and on how we can better walk with Him and live lives of gratitude and service.

This is the first year the students will be receiving **letter grades**. This is the grading scale we will be using:

95-100 A 82-84 B- 68-71 D+

92-94 A- 78-81 C+ 65-67 D

88-91 B+ 75-77 C 62-64 D-

85-87 B 72-74 C- 0-61 F

Because our **Open House** is primarily a “meet and greet time,” I do not get to share much about procedures and expectations for 3rd grade. I will try to catch you up a bit in my weekly notes, via emails, and even on my faculty web page on the school’s website. ([www.sunnysidechristianschool.org](http://www.sunnysidechristianschool.org))

As you have heard, SCS is implementing the **FACTS** program. This means all parents will have access to their child’s grades online. It also means that hot lunch money will be collected via this online platform. A new tool of technology always comes with its own learning curve. :) Please bear with me as I navigate these curves!! 🙂

If, during the coming year, you have questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I would like to maintain **open communication channels**, and I will do my best to keep you informed of your child’s progress. You may contact me with a note, stop in after school, call me (509-305-0694), or email me at sandy.vis@sunnysidechristianschool.org. The school’s number is 509-837-3044. Once again, it is my prayer that this can be a fun and exciting year of learning and growth for your child. As you and I work together, I am sure that we can attain that goal.

In your packet I’ve included a form called, **“Tell Me About Your Child.”** I’d like to have that returned by the end of this week. It is so helpful to get parent insights about my students. Thank you in advance for your help!

**CALENDAR (August 22-25):**

**Tuesday: 1st Day of School!!! Noon Dismissal (**Students who will be picked up will be waiting in the

courtyard by the east parking lot for you. Buses will run their usual routes at noon.)

K-12 Chapel–8:50 a.m. in the Elementary Gym

**Wednesday-Friday**: **Regular dismissal at 3:03** (Buses out front; Students who will be picked up

will be waiting in the courtyard by the east parking lot for you.)

Students may **redeem** the **Summer Reading Challenge record sheets for prizes** if

they did not get to do so during our Open House last week. They need to

have their record sheet with them when going to the prize room. Thanks!

**Friday:** Please return the **“Tell Me About Your Child” form** by today. Thank you!

**Additional Pertinent Information**

1. **Pamphlet—**If you have questions about the informational pamphlet, please let me know.

2. **Water Bottles**—The drinking fountains are available, but I would like students to have a

water bottle with them each day. A water filling station is available in our building!! Yay!

4. **Lunch**—Microwave use will be allowed. My preference is food that does not need a lot of

time in the microwave since there are usually several students each day who like to use it. Thanks!

5. **School Store**—This will be available at 11:30 each day for students who want to purchase lunch

and/or snack items. A price list will be sent home soon. These items will need to be purchased

with cash, not the FACTS program.

6. **Hot Lunches**–I will let you know in a parent note when the hot lunches will be available.

7. **Volunteers/Adults at School**— I am including a sign-up sheet for those who would like to

volunteer to help 3rd grade.

8. **Pick-ups and Drop-offs**—If you are dropping off or picking up your child before or after school,

please do so at the east gate that enters into the Courtyard. If you need to drop off or pick up

your child during the school day, you will need to stop at the office to do so there.

9. **After-School Plans–**If your child’s after-school plans are different from their usual plans, please

send a note/message to let me (and the bus driver, if needed) know. This helps me to better keep

your child safe while they are at school and through dismissal time. Thank you!

10. **Birthdays**—We will celebrate birthdays once a month. This is optional, of course. Typically, this

will happen at the end of the school day. I will contact you to set it up ahead of time.

11. **PE and Music**—Mr. Dykstra will be teaching PE, and Ms. Spear will be teaching Music.

12. **Chromebooks**—This year we will be utilizing Chromebooks for some of our in-class learning. Ear

buds/Headphones were on the supply list for 3rd grade. If you are unable to provide these, I do have a few extras the students may use. I also have a USB mouse for each student to use, if desired. If your child has his/her own mouse that he/she would like to use, that is fine. A wireless mouse is not an optimal choice because of an occasional spotty wi-fi connection.

13. **AR Points—**Students will be required to get a certain number of AR (Accelerated Reading) points

each quarter. For the first quarter, all students will need to achieve at least 3.0 AR points.

Further information and explanation will be coming next week.

14. **300 Pages Assignment for Reading**—Each quarter I require the students to read a minimum of

300 pages at home. As much as possible, I would like students to be reading at their reading level.

I am including a form that the students will use to record the names of the books and the number

of pages in the book. You do not have to record the number of pages read each day. You may wait

until your child finishes a book to record the number of pages in that book. Extra credit will be

given for each additional 300 pages read each quarter.

15. **Prayer Assignments**—I know this is new, so I will discuss this with the students, and then I will

be sure to send home some information next week to explain it further to you when I send home

the first assignment.

16. **Allergies**—One of our 3rd graders is allergic to nuts, so please help us keep our classroom a

nut-free zone. Thank you!!

17. **Essential oils**—I know that many people (perhaps some of you) really appreciate the value and

effectiveness of essential oils in their family’s health regimen. I am really sorry to have to tell

you that I have allergies and allergy-induced asthma, and many (perhaps even most) of the

essential oils cause them to flare up. Eucalyptus, lavender, and sage are particularly troublesome

triggers.. I really cannot have those scents in the classroom if I am going to be able to breathe

and teach. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**Have a wonderful week!!**

**Blessings, Sandy Vis**