

Back to School Night  
August 26, 2020  
3rd Grade - Miss Cooke

Welcome to a new and interesting school year! I'm so happy to have students back and I'm looking forward to working with you to have the most successful year possible. Below is a brief overview of what you and your child can expect throughout the year.

### Teaching philosophy

My teaching philosophy is to first foster an environment where students feel respected and comfortable. From there, I want to meet each child where they are so that they can grow and thrive academically.

### Academics

- The core subjects that we will cover daily include Religion, Math, ELA (reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and cursive handwriting), Social Studies, and Science.
- Specials
  - Music: Tuesday
  - Art: Thursday
  - PE: Tuesday and Thursday
    - Wear PE uniform: uniform shorts, a St. Patrick's t-shirt, and athletic shoes.
- Homework
  - Students will read for 20 minutes each night. This can be a book from home or one borrowed from our class library
  - About 20-30 minutes of additional written homework should be expected each night.
    - Homework will typically include a spelling activity and a math worksheet
  - Occasionally a project will require some extra time outside of school
- Tests
  - Spelling tests will be every Friday
  - I will give a few days' notice for all other tests

### Sacrament Prep

- Since 2nd grade was cut short, Ms. Ceseña and I are working to reschedule and prepare the students for these sacraments
  - First Reconciliation: aiming for early October - during school
  - First Holy Communion - tentative date: Sunday Nov. 15

## Classroom Expectations and Discipline

- I have 5 main expectations to help our class run smoothly and keep students accountable.
  - 1. Respect everyone
  - 2. Tell the truth
  - 3. Follow directions
  - 4. Work hard and try your best
  - 5. Have fun and learn
- Class Dojo
  - We will be using Class Dojo for both in-class “points” as well as to send out parent reminders
  - On Class Dojo, students can earn points for good behavior or they can lose points for poor choices.
    - I try my best to keep an eye out and catch kids being good.
    - When you connect, you will be able to see your student’s recent points
  - On Fridays I will give each student a ticket with their total number of points for the week. They can no longer be taken away and can be saved up or spent on rewards such as a special privilege.
  - Just before this meeting I sent you an invitation to the Class Dojo page so that you can access information on your child’s points and receive reminders.

## Contact and Communication

- You can reach me through:
  - Email: [jcooke@stpatrickssd.com](mailto:jcooke@stpatrickssd.com)
  - You can message me directly on Class Dojo: These notifications go to my phone and are good for a quick question/answer
- I will communicate with families through
  - Email, newsletters, and Class Dojo reminders

Updates, photos, links, and files will be put on our class website:

<https://stpatricks3rdgrade.weebly.com/>

## Extra: Scholastic Book Orders

- Flyers will come home occasionally that you can use to order books. I cannot accept cash so please order online and use our class code W2ZQB. Then I will be able to place a whole class order.
- <https://clubs.scholastic.com/home>

**If we need to revert to distance learning:**

I will use various online tools including Google Classroom and Zoom.

- New this year, each student has their own St. Patrick School gmail account.
  - They will only be able to send and receive emails within our domain.
  - I will help students log in and connect with our Google Class at school as well as send the login information home individually.
- During in-person school I will do my best to keep the class site and the Google classroom updated in case a student has to miss school or simply forgets what the homework is.