

About the Teacher



Barbara Gihring, B.S., M.Ed.

Mrs. Gihring was raised in Clover, Idaho and attended Trinity Lutheran School as a child. She received her A.A. degree from Concordia in Oakland, California and then attended Concordia in Seward, Nebraska where she earned her B.S. and Lutheran Teacher credential, majoring in English literature. Barbara also earned a Masters in Administration through Pacific Lutheran University. She has taught at Pilgrim Lutheran in Chula Vista, California and Our Savior Lutheran School in Aiea, Hawaii before moving to Bremerton. Barbara is married to Gene, who is a retired submarine sailor and now works for Seattle City Light. They have two children, Gina and Timothy, who are both Peace Lutheran School graduates. Barbara has been at the school since 1983.

Developmental Characteristics

- Lengthened attention span, but this varies greatly from child to child
- Seeks new experiences and seems to be constantly mastering new skills and facts
- Still needs manipulative objects to understand some concepts; abstract thinking abilities are not yet well-developed
- Likes to express self; is able to back up opinions by reasoning
- Desires adult approval and needs to belong to a group
- Developing independence
- Friendships change frequently and are based on material objects
- Are insistent that rules be followed and will tattle on another student for an infraction
- Large muscles are better developed than fine muscles
- Eye/hand and eye/foot coordination are developing
- Begins to develop the ability to use abstract pictures about God beyond memorized and stated facts

Third Grade Goals

1. Develop more independence and responsibility for school work.
2. Develop the desire to extend learning about topics discussed.
3. Develop a positive attitude toward themselves and their peers.
4. Develop an appreciation for the concept of forgiveness, and respect the gifts and understand the mistakes of others.
5. Develop a firmer foundation of basic facts and concrete ideas.

Behavioral Expectations

1. Be prepared for class
2. Participate in class
3. Follow directions
4. Listen attentively
5. Respect the rights and property of others
6. Use time wisely
7. Complete work carefully and neatly
8. Work with others cooperatively
9. Engage in proper behavior inside and outside of the classroom

Discipline is the process of becoming a follower. It should not be confused with punishment, although at times the discipline process may not seem pleasant. The goal is to teach Christ-pleasing behavior, and this is done as gently as possible while still remaining firm and consistent. Students are expected to treat classmates and all adults with respect, be helpful to others, and learn to encourage one another, appreciating the differences among their classmates.

Peace Lutheran School

Third Grade



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Third Grade Curriculum Overview

Biblical Studies

Students learn key concepts of faith, such as law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. The lessons are based on selected Bible stories that span Biblical history from Creation through Pentecost. The students learn to use their Bibles and memorize key verses that support concepts and lessons.

Language Arts

The program is designed to strengthen communication skills. Students need to develop fluency in reading, writing, spelling, speaking and listening. A variety of literature is experienced, as well as opportunities to develop different writing styles.

Math

Students will gain a strong foundation in basic skills, along with skills necessary to perform higher-level problem solving. A solid sense of numbers is developed through the use of manipulatives and a variety of activities. Addition and subtraction facts are practiced to reach proficiency and multiplication and division facts are introduced. Other skills include time, money, and measurement.

Science

The Science program includes introduction to the classification of animals and the study of how living things interact. Students also study minerals, rocks, and the forces that shape the land. Students learn about the water cycle and the earth's place in the solar system. Third graders investigate matter and energy including electricity, magnets, heat, light, and sound. Finally, they explore the forces of motion, work and simple machines.

Social Studies

Students develop geographic knowledge including a spatial sense of the world, and understanding between humans and their environment, cultures, and the meaning of community.

Music

Students will grow in their ability to identify notes and use musical terms. They will write and play back simple rhythm patterns. Harmony is introduced through round singing and listening activities. They experience reading and singing a variety of songs, creative movement, playing rhythm instruments, and simple dances and games. The instruments of the orchestra are introduced.

Art

Students are exposed to great works of art with follow-up discussion and teaching. Students are encouraged to use these elements in their own works of art.

Physical Education

Students are introduced to more complex patterns of movement and skill application. Students will develop manipulative skills that lead to better coordination. Game and sport fundamentals will be stressed at this level.

Foreign Language

Students learn Spanish as their main experience with a foreign language. Cultural aspects of the Spanish and Mexican heritage are taught as well.

Study Skills

Students learn to be more responsible for their assigned homework. They also are developing the ability to pace themselves for longer projects. More emphasis is placed on reading to gather information and using the information to summarize what has been learned.

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