



May 2026

Dear 3rd Grade Parents and Rising 3rd Grade Students,

Welcome to 3rd grade at St. Mark's! Summer is a wonderful time to read and write for pleasure and strengthen your foundational math skills. Rising 3rd graders read independently, identify main ideas, and describe characters, settings, and problems. As writers, 3rd graders independently compose paragraphs about a topic using the writing process steps. In math, 3rd graders understand place values up to 1,000, are fluent in addition and subtraction fact families, and are familiar with multiplication. In this letter, you will find activities to help guide and reinforce these essential skills.

Each student is asked to read ***Dory Fantasmagory #1* by Abby Hanlon**, and at least **1 book of your choice from the [Texas Bluebonnet Award list](#) or [HAISLN list](#)**. Please remember that if your 3rd grader reads 8 Bluebonnet books throughout the year, they will qualify for the Bluebonnet Breakfast our librarians offer in the spring.

Your child should choose a spiral notebook (8 ½" x 11") for their St. Mark's summer reading assignment journal. The journal should be divided into three parts:

- **Part 1 — SUMMER READING** — Make a list of the books you read over the summer. You can illustrate and write about your favorite parts, endings you wish had happened, new or tricky words you learned, etc.
- **Part 2 — MY SUMMER** — Write, illustrate, and use photos to describe your summer adventures! Choose a minimum of 3 different occasions about which to write. Each entry should be at least ½ a page in length.
- **Part 3 — I Wish My Teacher Knew...** — Take time to consider what you wish your teachers knew about you. What are you most excited about? Do you have any questions for us?

Please bring your journal to school on the first day. We will present it in the classroom during the first few weeks of school.

We encourage regular practice of math facts to help students build confidence in their math skills for the upcoming school year. We recommend using IXL (available until July 14, 2026) for 20-30 minutes twice a week. While daily math practice is not required, additional resources are provided below:

- [Sheppard Software](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [Math printable sheets](#) (for practice, and include a variety of problems and activities)

We look forward to seeing you in 3rd grade, where tremendous things are in store for you and your child.

Have a wonderful summer,
Your 3rd Grade Teachers