



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year and welcome to being part of the third grade classroom! I am so excited for this year to begin! I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and are just as excited as I am to be back at school.

I would like to introduce myself; my name is Mrs. Maureen Schmidt. I am from Minnesota, USA and have travelled to the beautiful Dominican Republic with my husband, Matthew and our dog, Cadbury. While this is my first year teaching at ISS, this is my tenth year teaching elementary. I hold an elementary teaching certificate, a Spanish teaching certificate and a Health teaching certificate. In addition to these three teaching certificates, I obtained my Masters in Literacy Education, from Hamline University, located in Minnesota. I have previously taught in an urban Spanish Immersion school in Minnesota, and most recently in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

I am excited to be teaching your child this year and I look forward to meeting not only the students, but the entire family! The first days of school are very important. *Please remember to bring all school supplies.* A list of school supplies can be found on the school website.

Grade 3 Curriculum Program. Every month I will send home a newsletter telling you our themes of the month and letting you know what we will be studying. This first month is going to be an exciting one as I help the children settle into their new surroundings and routines. We will also focus on the students getting to know each other, making new friends, and reviewing procedures and expectations. This year, students will be part of many project-based learning projects. Students will combine what they are learning in science, social studies, mathematics, reading and writing, into integrated units which show how they are all tied together through units and themes.

Grade 3 Routine (Schedule). We will begin each morning with a morning circle or meeting. On Monday and Friday mornings, students will participate in a school-wide morning circle. Tuesday-Thursday, students will participate in a grade three morning meeting, where we build community and share any important announcements. Math will be in the mornings every day and reading, writing, language and grammar will be worked on after recess. Specials will take place in the afternoon, along with either science or social studies. Each day (except Fridays) third graders will end their day in Spanish class. (Please note that on Friday, Spanish class is in the morning). Students will have daily special classes.

- Monday: Technology, PE, and Spanish
- Tuesday: Choral, Spanish
- Wednesday: Library, PE, and Spanish
- Thursday: Art, PE, and Spanish
- Friday: Spanish and Music (am)

Uniforms: Students in Grades 3 should wear a grey *P.E. shirt and comfortable blue shorts on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays*. On Tuesday and Friday, students should wear a white polo shirt with navy blue pants or shorts. Running shoes should be worn at all times for comfort and safety.

Reading in Grade 3. Reading is an essential part of third grade. Students in third grade are no longer “learning to read, but rather reading to learn.” It will be extremely important that students are reading a minimum of 20 minutes at home nightly. My goal is that students will be reading a minimum of an hour daily in class, however that extra 20 minutes at home can help greatly. (**Please see the attached graph on reading minutes)

Attendance: Students should arrive at the classroom at 8:00 am each morning[©]. The classroom will open promptly at 7:50 for students to enter. If your child is sick, please call or email the office to let them know.

Pick-up: Students should be picked up by 3pm on school days. Please remember that teachers have team meetings on Wednesdays beginning at 3pm and so will **not** be available at that time.

Remedial After School: Students who need additional help will be invited by the teacher to participate in remedial help after school from 3:00-3:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. I will contact families of students who are invited to stay after school for additional help.

Water Bottle: Students need to bring a water bottle to keep at school. We will send it home every Friday to be cleaned. Please make sure to send it back with your child on Monday.

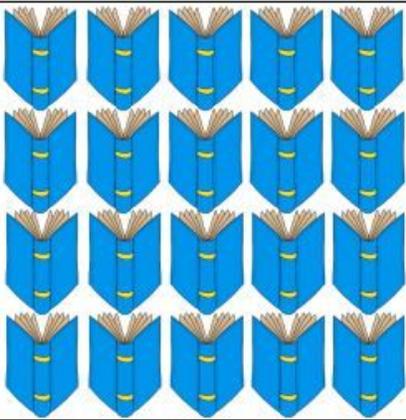
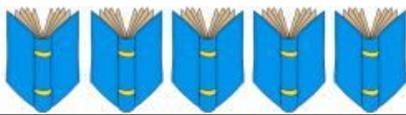
Communication Folder: I feel that the communication between home and school is very important. Students will have a take-home folder in which they will bring back and forth from home and school **daily**. Please check your child’s folder (and backpack) daily for any information or news. Please also visit our classroom website for any quarterly updates, news and information. Information will also be sent home in a weekly email. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at the school and by email at mschmidt@issosua.com

Thank you in advance for your cooperation during this time of transition. I look forward to working with all of you.

Regards,

Mrs. Maureen Schmidt

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If a student starts reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.