**St. Athanasius Academy**

Class Syllabus – 3rd Grade Language Arts

Charlotte Mason wrote, *“The question is not, how much does the youth* ***know****? when he has*

*finished his education but how much does he* ***care****?”*

**Teacher Information**

Name: Mrs. Angela Weaver

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*Please feel free to contact me via phone or email. I do not check email and silence my phone from 9pm to 7am EST, but I will return emails, calls, and texts within 24 hours.*

**Course Description**

In this course, we will learn many great things about reading, writing, geography, art, grammar, vocabulary, and

spelling. We will find joy as we learn and connect these subjects with meaning, beauty, and truth. The point of this course is not just to learn about the subjects taught, but to learn to care about them - to feel gratitude for how they bless our lives and then to use our knowledge to do good.

**Required Materials (to be purchased by the parents/guardians)**

\*Before purchasing course materials, I recommend having your child take the assessment test on [https://www.goodandbeautiful.com](https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Course-Level-Assessment_2_0.pdf). If your child tests at a level above or below level 3, please contact me as soon as possible, before the start of the semester, if possible.

The Good and The Beautiful Level 3 Language Arts Course Set. Parents may choose to purchase hard copy resources (recommended) or download the free PDF copy. Available at [https://www.goodandbeautiful.com](https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/products/pre-k-8-language-arts-course-set-level-3/)

**Included on the course set:**

Level 3 Course Book

Level 3 Reader – I highly recommend buying the physical copy of this book. It is several books the children will be reading throughout the course. If at all possible, have children read physical books, as opposed to reading from an e-reader, like a kindle.

Level 3 Poetry book: I Sat By The Sea collection

Spelling flash cards – these can be downloaded (for free) and printed on cardstock and then cut out

Personal reading books – Read 20 minutes a day from a book from the Good and the Beautiful book list [https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/book-list/](https://www.goodandbeautiful.com/book-list/%20) or list of your choosing. I do have other book lists that are lovely and will be sending these in an email. I encourage families to adopt a Read Aloud Time, when you sit down and have a family read aloud in the evenings, choosing a book that is engaging. For instance, when my oldest son was in 3rd grade, my husband read Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson, in the evenings. It was well above both boys’ reading levels, but the story was engaging and fun! I can supply a book list full of great read aloud suggestions.

**Additional Supplies**

• A three-ring binder to use as the child’s “My

Book of Stories and Writings” (This same binder

can be used through all course levels to keep

the stories and writing assignments that the

child creates. This is not the same thing as the

writing journal below. Have the child draw a

cover to insert into the front of the binder.)

• A writing journal (a blank wide-ruled notebook)

• A personal whiteboard for spelling dictation

• Scissors, tape, and glue

• 3"x5" index cards

• A dry-erase marker

• Thin-tipped markers

• A timer (an app on your phone or a physical

kitchen timer)

• A highlighter

*Extra items will be needed through out the course. A full list of these are on page iii in the Level 3 Course book. Many of the items may already be in your home!*

*Recommended text (optional, not required)*

A handwriting course should be used 4–5 days a week in conjunction with this course. The Good and the Beautiful handwriting course is available on their website or you may acquire a handwriting program of your choice.

**Concepts covered in this course**

• Phonics

• Reading

• Spelling

• Writing

• Grammar and punctuation

• Literature

• Geography

• Poetry and memorization

• Art appreciation and art instruction

Every Monday, I will send an email out to parents, informing parents of the lessons to be completed and the discussion topics to be covered in class as well as what part of each lesson I expect the children to complete on their own (homework). I will repeat the homework assignment in class for the children, but it always helps to have it in writing.

***Parents should do the following each day:***

* Listen to the child read the assigned story aloud as well as the poem for each lesson. The children will be memorizing poems as we go through the course. Please help your child memorize the poems by working with them for a few minutes every day.
* Read through the spelling words with your child and help them with words that are difficult for your child.
* Please check in with your child every day about how they are doing with completing their homework assignments, particularly the independent practice boxes.

**Progress Monitoring and grading**

***Parents***:

Parents are responsible for checking the child’s work daily using the answer key. No matter what level the child is on, parents should check the child’swork on a daily basis, giving feedback. When needed, adjust the level

of parental involvement. Use the answer keys provided to correct work from the Course Books. Parents should also quiz the child on all the spelling words that have been given up to the lesson we are working through.

***Teacher****:*

I will be reviewing students’ work every week and providing positive and constructive feedback. I am always available to assist with any issues that students are having with the work. Please let me know as soon as possible if your child is having difficulty. Virtual class meetings will be interactive, and discussion based, reinforcing and building on content and themes from the curriculum.

Grades in this class will be based on class participation, accomplishing various assignments outside of class, and I always give extra consideration for assignments that are tried with full effort, as opposed to just not doing or only doing part of an assignment. For instance, if a student does his or her best to write a journal entry, then I will grade with that in mind, even if the entry is short or misspelled or grammar isn’t great. If a student does not even try, then that is another matter. If a student often lacks completed assignments, then I will request a parent teacher meeting, over the phone or in a video chat, in order to help the student gain enthusiasm and a better learning experience. My goal is for the children to learn and retain what they learn because they enjoy learning, rather than just going through the motions.

**Plagiarism, Cheating, and Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism is the practice of copying words, sentences, images, or ideas for use in written or oral assessments without giving proper credit to the source. Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of illegal help on anything that has been determined by the teacher to be an individual effort. Elementary students are still learning how to paraphrase and cite. Instruction on plagiarism, cheating, and how to avoid them will be integrated into the course. If plagiarism or cheating is detected, Mrs. Vlahos will contact the parents, give timely and direct feedback and instruct the student to revise and resubmit work.

**General Information:**

If your child is having trouble in this class, come to me immediately and I can work with you. If you wait till the end of the semester, it will be TOO LATE. I am available for extra tutoring, if needed, or to help parents figure out the best ways to accomplish the more creative assignments, especially when money is tight. I am a homeschool mom as well as a teacher, and I remember those days of figuring out how to make the one income stretch to cover everything!

**Attendance**

We do not have an official attendance policy, but a lack of attendance could affect participation and final grading by the teacher. The virtual classrooms are available to any students with internet access. We attempt to record all video calls to make them available for students who are absent. The recorded videos, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. We are unable to promise that 100% of all video calls will be recorded and posted online.

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Arrive to class on time
2. Be prepared
3. Respect your classmates and teacher
4. Give your best for your own sake as well as your classmates and your teacher. We learn together!
5. Be responsible for your actions. Parents, please help your children to be responsible for their learning by taking on the responsibility for helping them learn! In elementary grades, children can only accomplish so much on their own, they will need parents to assist them.
6. **No** eating, drinking, cell phones, or extra electronics permitted during class time