

Welcome to Grade 3!



Meet the Teacher



Hi! My name is Mrs. Vanden Pol and this is my 8th year teaching at Fort McMurray Christian School. I love teaching and spending time with students and am pretty sure I have the best job in the world.

You may have noticed two Vanden Pols in the staff directory because my husband is also a teacher and teaches Grade 6 here at FMCS. Together, we have been blessed with two wonderful and energetic boys named Reuben and Thomas. I hope the students don't mind me sharing some stories about them every once in awhile.

In my spare time I enjoy coaching/playing volleyball, getting creative and crafty with my hobbies, enjoying a latte and a good book, and playing piano and guitar.

I love starting a new school year and it is my privilege to be learning with your child this year. I look forward to getting to know you and your family more in the days and months ahead. Please pray for me and the students as we begin this journey together. Thank you in advance for your support this year!

Yours in Christ,
Erica Vanden Pol

About Grade Three

Our Storyline

When students step into Grade 3 they become detectives who begin "Looking for God in All the School Places". This is our classroom storyline and is our way of learning that God is in everything and we can find Him if we seek Him with our whole heart. Our storyline is built on two verses from Psalm and Jeremiah and will be used to help us find God in our school work, our classmates, and the world around us.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;"
Psalm 24:1

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."
Jeremiah

Academics and Homework

I have high expectations for my students when they are in my classroom. I expect them to be responsible community builders who do their best to complete the work that is given to them. As a teacher I believe in making lessons and activities as engaging and interesting as possible to help students stay focused and on task. As well, my students know that I am here to help them if they are stuck at any point in time.

I know that at the end of a long school day I am ready to go home and relax with my family and I think this is especially important for kids. You will not see homework from me unless a student makes the choice to use class time for playing or relaxing instead of getting work done. My expectations for work at home is for students to read for 20-30 minutes every day and to practice and learn their memory verses. I will let you know what verse students are learning and when it is due so you can help them with this. Just like reading, I find it best to practice the memory verse every day to ensure it is something they will remember beyond the walls of our classroom.

Keeping Students Safe



This year brings with it a few new routines to help minimize risk of Covid-19. I will highlight a few important details below and you can read the full re-entry plan for the school [here](#).

Drop-Off and Pick Up

Parents are being asked to stay in their vehicles during drop-off and pick up. Grade 3 students will head to the east portable doors (staff will be there to help for the first days) and line up at the pylon marked Grade 3. We are asking students to stay off the playground before school to help us get into the building as safely and quickly as possible. Classes will enter the school in a staggered manner with Grade 3 heading into school first since we need to walk furthest down the hallway. At the end of the day classes will have staggered dismissal as well to help avoid congestion in the hallways.

Lockers

Grade 3 students will be using lockers this year however we are asking that we limit as much as possible items moving between school and home so students will not be able to bring in any toys/stuffies or pictures for their locker. If they have a metal or plastic shelf they would like to put in the bottom that is fine.

Lunch

There will be no microwave available in grade 3 for lunch. As well, parents are not permitted to bring lunch for students in the middle of the day. They need to bring their lunch from home. In the event a lunch is forgotten we will have pre-packaged, healthy food options such as granola bars, apple sauce, and individually wrapped fruit for students to eat.

Along with this is the requirement that students are able to open all containers and packaging for their lunch themselves to avoid multiple hands touching food. Finally, there are no utensils available for students to use so students need to be sure they bring any necessary forks or spoons with them in their lunch. Thank you.

Masks

Masks are not mandatory for Grade 3 students this year however I strongly recommend they bring one to use in the hallways at the beginning and end of the day and while getting ready for recess. We share our hallway with Grade 4-6 who will all be wearing masks at these times as well. We will do our best to keep students staggered in the hallways but overlap may happen.

Student masks should be kept in a breathable bag when not in use or they can use a mask lanyard to ensure it stays with them throughout the day. I would like to reiterate this is not mandatory but if a student is comfortable wearing a mask in the hallway it is recommended they do so.

Daily Risk Assessment

Please ensure you are only sending students to school when they are healthy. Parents are asked to use this [risk assessment tool](#) daily with their children to check for symptoms. You do not need to submit the form to the school, it is a reference tool for your use.

In the event your child develops symptoms at school we will call you and follow the protocols outlined in our school re-entry plan.

In order to make this school year a success it is so important to ensure that only healthy kids come to school. I will support student learning at home if they are unable to come to school to ensure they do not fall behind. Remember, we are all in this together!



Student Supplies

To help things flow smoothly on the first day of school (September 2) please help your child pre-pack their supplies as follows:

In their pencil case:

- 12 pencils
- Pencil crayons
- Markers
- 2 erasers
- 1 glue stick
- 2 highlighters

In their binders:

- 4 dividers in each
- Loose leaf paper (not a lot)



Please put student names on all duo-tangs, binders, scribblers, and sketchbooks.

Please put any extra pencils, erasers, and gluesticks into a labelled ziploc bag if possible. If not I will have some bags available at school.

All other supplies can be put neatly in their backpack and I will help students put it where it needs to go. All supplies not in use will be stored in a container or sealed bag designated for only your child.

After the first day the only items going back and forth to school is the students lunch kit and jacket. Students do not need to bring a backpack with them unless it is very important to them they do so. This will help us limit the amount of time spent in the hallway at lockers.

Thank you for your help!

Stay Connected

I will do my best to keep you updated with important information and reminders from our grade 3 classroom.

Remind

My primary form of communication will be using the Remind App. You can join by [clicking this link](#) or by following these [instructions](#).

Email

I will also be using emails periodically to send classroom newsletters or attachments. If you have any questions, concerns or information to share with me please send me an email erica.vandenpol@fm-psd.ab.ca.

Google Classroom

This year we will be using Google Classroom in Grade 3 for some of our class assignments. In the event a student is home sick they will be able to access Google Classroom at home. To learn more about Google Classroom please [click here](#).

Parent Homework

I cannot wait to get to know your children better this year but no one knows them like you do. Please send me an email (erica.vandenpol@fm-psd.ab.ca) and tell me what you think I should know about your child. What are they interested in? How would you describe their personality? If you have concerns, academic or otherwise, please let me know. This information will help me build a stronger relationship with your child so I can teach them to the best of my ability. Thank you!