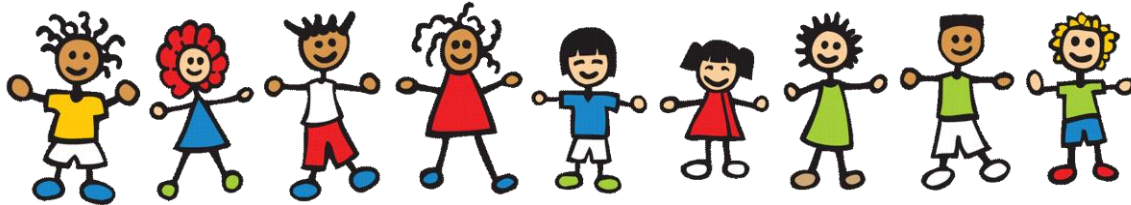


# Grade 3 Classroom Information Handbook 2023 - 2024





# Welcome Back to CCA!

Welcome back to Cochrane Christian Academy! For those of you who are new to CCA, welcome! We are so excited for this brand-new school year. We can't wait to welcome your child into the classroom, and we believe God has some very exciting things in store for us all in this coming school year. We are excited to get started!



## A Little Bit About Your Grade 3 Team

### **Mrs. Simpson**

My name is Stacey Simpson. I am a wife and mother of three children. My family has lived in Cochrane for a little over ten years, and we just love our community! I taught from 2002 to 2012 in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. I have taught every level from Grade 1 to Middle School. This is my eighth year teaching at Cochrane Christian Academy. I am very excited to be teaching Grade 3 this year and look forward to sharing a fun and engaging curriculum with your children. I have always worked in Christian schools, and I love the freedom I have to share about God, pray with my students, and take an active interest in their spiritual well-being. Teaching is my passion, and I'm committed to making a difference in the lives of my students.

### **Mrs. Miller**

My name is Kendra Miller, and I am a wife and mother of two children, ages 9 and 6 years old. My family and I live and attend church in NW Calgary. I have been teaching with Rocky View Schools since 2012 in Airdrie, Chestermere, and now in Cochrane! I have taught kindergarten, as well as grades 2 & 3. I am very excited to be teaching again at CCA this year and I look forward to being able to share my faith with my students in authentic and meaningful ways. I can't wait to hear about their faith journeys, too. I look forward to meeting your child soon and having the chance to grow in community with your family this year. You can follow our class adventures [\*\*@mrsmillergrade3\*\*](#) on Instagram!

### **Ms. Meszaros – Health Teacher**

Hello! I wanted to (re)introduce myself. My name is Miss M and I started at CCA last year as the temporary Grade 5 teacher and this academic year, I will be the health teacher. Once I received my bachelor of Education, I moved to England and taught in the UK for 6 years. I have been teaching in elementary schools for the past 7 years and I am excited for my new role as the health teacher. If you have any questions or concerns about your child in health class this year, please feel free to send me an email at [mmeszaros@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:mmeszaros@rockyview.ab.ca)

### **Ms. Olson – Music Teacher**

Greetings! I will be teaching your child Music this year. I graduated from the University of Calgary in 2018 with my Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Kinesiology (with honors). I have been in classrooms ever since and with Rockyview for the majority of that time. I have 2 boys at home; ages 9 and 3. I enjoy walking, bike riding and watching shows. I am looking forward to meeting you and your child this year. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached through email at [bolson@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:bolson@rockyview.ab.ca)

### **COMMUNICATING WITH US**

If you have questions please feel free to send us an email at: [kmiller@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:kmiller@rockyview.ab.ca) and [stsimpson@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:stsimpson@rockyview.ab.ca). The school phone number is 403-932-5177. We suggest all emails be brief. If your question or concern is more complicated, call to arrange for a meeting. If possible, we will try to return phone calls and emails on the same day. We do not check our work emails over the weekend.



Your child's agenda is another wonderful communication tool. If you write a brief note in the agenda, we will see it right away, as we check agendas first thing every morning.

**Please remember to check and sign your child's agenda every day, as it will highlight important events and reminders.**

The classroom is a busy place. In an effort to ensure you receive timely information and understand what your child is learning, we will be sending out newsletters by email containing class information. Some of it is repetitive from the monthly CCA newsletter; however, our lives are busy, and this is just one more way to ensure you know what is happening. The newsletters will also be posted to our CCA teacher websites. **Please remember to check spam because sometimes it gets sent there.**

### **WEBSITE NAVIGATION**

Please check out the Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) website. The web address is [cca.rockyview.ab.ca](http://cca.rockyview.ab.ca).

Steps to getting onto our sites:

1. Go to [cca.rockyview.ab.ca/](http://cca.rockyview.ab.ca/)
2. Click on Elementary and then Mrs. Simpson or Mrs. Miller.
3. You can now go to our sites to view our class calendar, educational links, and copies of the Grade 3 Handbook, newsletters, and forms.

### **HOW WE RUN OUR LOVE & LOGIC CLASSROOM**

During the first week of school, we will create “Our Classroom Promise” with the students. We want to involve the children in establishing our classroom culture and expectations, because we find they “buy into” it more. In general, we have found that if children understand the behavioural expectations from the beginning of the school year, and we consistently reinforce them, it minimizes many difficulties.

Love and Logic is an approach we use in the classroom to create a safe and caring environment. It guides and empowers children to develop positive relationships, empathy, respect, and accountability. It also fosters the ability to gain independence and become a problem solver.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn’t cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can’t solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the special person and the special situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, whisper to me “I’m not sure that’s fair,” and we will talk.

For more information, go to [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com).

#### LUNCHES AND WATERBOTTLES

The children will be eating their snack and lunch in their classroom. They will not have access to a microwave, so if have warm food it must be sent in a thermos. We encourage students to eat their main dish first at lunch and then they can have their treats last. We encourage you to pack healthy snacks for your child, such as fruit, cheese, crackers, veggies, and granola bars.



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We are continuing with the Boomerang lunch program this year. This means that what students “pack in,” they also “pack out.” Any garbage, juice boxes, or ziplocks need to be put back into their lunch kits and taken home. As a school, we are now producing 3 times less the amount of garbage than we used to. That’s pretty amazing!

Please be sure to send a labelled water bottle with your child each day. We recommend water bottles with auto seal or auto spout to minimize spills or leaks in your child’s backpack.

#### HOME READING PROGRAM – CCA Reads and The Amazing Race - Reading Across the World!

We will be implementing a school wide home reading incentive program to encourage your child to be reading at home daily. Please support them by carving out time that they can be cuddling up at home with a good book. We will also be planning other fun reading events like Book Tastings and Book Bistros. Stay tuned to learn more about how we will be transforming into a classroom full of avid readers this year!



### **BIBLE MEMORY**

All CCA students will be working on Bible Memory Verses again this year! More information will be coming soon.

### **DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

We believe in the importance of moving your body, and daily physical activity is mandated in Alberta classrooms. We have seen that physical exercise fuels the learning process in children. Your children will participate in daily recesses, gym time, SPARK, active living walks, and fun body breaks in the classroom. The students will get lots of physical movement during the day. We will be keeping movement and exercise a priority in our classrooms.

### **SCHOOL WORK**

We strive to give Grade 3 students ample time to complete their learning tasks during class time. That being said, from time to time, a child will not finish their work on a given day, and this work will be sent home to be completed and returned, as soon as possible. If your child will be away from school for more than a couple of days, it would be beneficial for you to let us know and we can send home any important work that they will be missing. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

### **CLASS ECONOMY**

We are excited to say that both Grade 3 classes will have a classroom economy throughout the year. This includes each student applying (and being hired) for a classroom job, being paid for their work and having to pay rent for their desk and purchase some of their school supplies. All money is in the form of class Monopoly money. This is a great way for students to become more financially literate, and they have a lot of fun along the way, too!

### **MY BLUEPRINT**

Rocky View Schools is using the myBlueprint program as a tool to facilitate student reflection and learning. myBlueprint is a kid-friendly, interactive portfolio tool that allows K-6 students to reflect on their learning, showcase their growth, and share their

achievements. They can easily navigate through the portfolio, explore occupations, write journal entries, set goals, and upload files, pictures, videos, drawings, and audio recordings. myBlueprint can be accessed by each student's family. Your child's teacher will send a request to your email address. Stay tuned for an email regarding myBlueprint parent access from your child's teacher in the coming weeks.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

This year we are asking each child to bring in a set of good quality headphones for computer (iPad) use in a large ziplock bag (labelled with their name), a box of Kleenex, and a clipboard to hold their work when we are outdoors or learning in alternative spaces. We would like to take our learning outside as much as possible. We find that connecting to nature lowers anxiety and fuels that love and appreciation for God's amazing creation!

We are asking that students not bring in personal toys or pieces of technology from home. We find that it can become a distraction in the classroom or can get misplaced. We appreciate your support in keeping our classroom a place where students can focus and learn.



## **VOLUNTEERING**

We really appreciate parent volunteers! We love having volunteers help out in the classroom and on field trips. At school, you can expect to do photocopying and collating mini-books, bulletin board work, reading with students, helping prepare materials for art projects, and things of this nature. Please note that ALL classroom and field trip volunteers must have the Police Check and security clearance forms completed and approved before volunteering. If you require a security clearance, please see the CCA office staff for forms and information. If you are available to volunteer, please contact us via email and we will schedule you in.

## **FIELD TRIPS AND CLASS OUTINGS**

We are excited to be offering field trips again this year. We hope to attend approximately 3-4 field trips during the school year that will require entrance fees and busing costs. In the past, some of these field trips have been to the Calgary Farmyard, Glenbow Ranch, Telus Spark Science Centre, Cochrane Gymnastics, and the Calgary Zoo. In addition, there will be a couple of field trips that only require busing. CCA always tries to keep these costs reasonable and coordinate with other classes to spread out the busing costs.





## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Birthdays are a special time for students, and we recognize and celebrate each child on their birthday. Parents are invited to send in treats as per guidance that will soon be given from the CCA office – stay tuned! Summer birthdays will be celebrated within the month of June.

## **PRAYER**

Please keep us in prayer this year. We are so blessed to be covered in prayer as a school, and we truly believe it makes a huge difference in the classroom.



We are excited for a great year of learning with this wonderful group of students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your support and prayers.

In Christ's Service,

Mrs. Simpson & Mrs. Miller  
Grade 3 Teaching Team  
Cochrane Christian Academy