



*Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself*  
*Chinese Proverb*

My name is Margo VanDenBossche and I am so glad to be part of St. Peter's School. It is going to be a year full of learning and new experiences. I am a graduate of the University of Evansville and I also served in the U.S. Army. When not in the classroom, I can sometimes be found lining up to run a race somewhere near or far. This is my thirteen year teaching and the seventh teaching at St. Peter's School. This is a huge transitional year for students as their work and responsibilities grow.

A few of my favorite things



- Favorite color: purple
- Favorite season: fall
- Favorite food: pasta
- Favorite fast food: Chick Fil A
- Favorite drink: Dunkin Donuts coffee
- Favorite sport: football
- Favorite team: Minnesota Vikings
- Favorite animal: Eeyore
- Favorite book: The Stand

# Summer

To love God is something greater than to know him.

~ St. Thomas Aquinas~

This year has flown by! I have been so impressed with the work that my students has put into each day. Now it is time to turn in textbooks and take some time to relax and recharge. Thank you for allowing me to share this time with your children. I will miss them this summer but look forward to watching them grow and continue through the halls of St. Peter's.

## Summer checklist

relax and recharge

be creative

be a helper

try something new

be an explorer

send a post card

read a new author

learn a new prayer

make a new friend



It's time to say good-bye.  
Our class has come to an end.  
I've made more cherished memories  
and many more friends.

I've watched your children learn  
and grow and change from day to day.  
I hope that all the things we've done  
Have helped in some small way.

So it's with happy memories  
I send them out the door,  
with great hope and expectations  
for what next year holds in store.



## Spring

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ below me, Christ above me, Christ at my right, Christ at my left, Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.*

~ St. Patrick of Ireland ~

The dark days of winter are behind us. More daylight and warmer temperatures invite us outside. We see the first buds of spring, the greening of trees, and even have a date for the tentative date for peak viewing of cherry blossoms. Our world renews itself. Lent can be that way for us - a time to strip away the old and prepare anew for Christ. May we find ourselves rejoicing at Easter as we look forward to the blessing the Lord has in store for our good.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Religion

The third graders have been learning about the Mass parts and what each part means. Being part of and participating in the Mass is an important part of what we should be doing as Catholics. We have also been talking about ways the Church celebrates the Sacraments and what that means for our daily lives.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math**

The third graders have almost mastered all of their multiplication facts! We are left with less than 20 of the original 169. I am so proud of their hard work and amazed at their continued enthusiasm for the challenge. Thank you for all of your help at home!

### **4th Grade Religion**

We have been discussing how the commandments influence how we live our daily lives as disciples. We are called to live holy lives and following these commandments as well as Jesus' example are easy roadmaps to follow. This age group has many questions about how to live as disciples and I enjoy the discussions we have about our faith.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

We are building on the skills from third grade and learning to multiply and divide larger numbers, change fractions into decimals, and solving multiple step problems. I love the looks on their faces when the students realize they have mastered a skill they originally believed would be too hard.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Religion**

We have almost finished our deeper look into the sacraments. We are going to take some time to talk about the season of Lent and then prepare for the Faith Knowledge Assessment Test at the end of March. We will finish up the year discussing how we love and serve with Jesus as our example.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

We will be working with fractions and decimals as we move toward the end of the year. I am looking forward to having the 5<sup>th</sup> graders use this information for a project in the spring. It should be fun to see what they come up with! Stay tuned!



## Fall

*Not the goods of the world, but God. Not riches, but God. Not honors, but God.  
Not distinction, but God. Not dignities, but God. Not advancement, but God.  
God always and in everything.*

~ St. Vincent Pallotti ~

Change and challenges have taken place in the Intermediate Team. Multiple teachers and high expectations make the new school year a challenge. It is hard to believe how quickly the first quarter is moving. Your children are asking very interesting questions in the quest to know the world around them. They are paying attention even when we don't realize it. The world is opening up for them and it is amazing to watch.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Religion

After learning about the early church, the third graders will be learning that the pope and bishops lead one, holy, catholic, apostolic Church. We will also be talking about different types of prayers. This is a great time to set aside some time for family prayer. Such a wealth of prayers exists, how about choosing a new one and learning as a family to pray together!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math

Be on the lookout for the beginning of multiplication facts as a part of homework this month. Several students have already mentioned that all of the sequencing that we have been seeing has made the idea of multiplication less scary. If you have access to any of the old Schoolhouse Rocks videos for multiplication, please share them with your children. While they seem dated and funny, they are a good

tool to help students learn some of the number patterns. I still hear 'Three is a Magic Number" whenever we are skip counting by 3!

## **4th grade Religion**

We will be learning how the Commandments help us love God. This is an in-depth look at the first three commandments. We will finish up with seasonal chapters covering Advent and Christmas. This is a great time to share family holiday traditions.

## **4th grade Math**

Since I taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade last year and know the students' strengths'. We are able to build on all of the skills learned last year. We will be reviewing multiplication and division before moving onto more complex operations. If you are cooking for the holidays, have your child read the recipe or help measure ingredients. These experiences will help them relate math to everyday life.

## **5th grade Religion**

The Sacraments are the major focus of our year. We will be looking closely at The Sacraments of Christian Initiation for the next several weeks. What do you remember from your Confirmation or First Communion? Do they impact your life today?

## **5th grade Math**

In preparation for Middle School, the 5<sup>th</sup> grades have moved into a new math series. My Math will be carried on into the middle grades. Students have access to the online e-book and supporting videos. I am very proud of the transition the students have made using this program. This program gives students a chance to use math in more real world situations.