

A Parent's Guide to the Third Grade Curriculum

Reading and Language Arts

Student Learning Progression

Reading

- Recount stories, describe characters, ask and answer questions including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures
- Understand the craft and structure of stories, words, and phrases and distinguish point of view from another character
- Understand mood and compare and contrast the theme, setting, or plot in a story
- Ask and answer questions and understand the main idea of a story
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts
- Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea
- Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Writing

- Write and understand narrative, informative, and opinion pieces
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic
- With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail
- Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace

Language

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships

Mathematics

Major Concepts

- Base 10 system with a strong concentration on Place Value
- Properties for addition and subtraction
- Solve and write number stories for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Investigate relationship between addition and subtraction
- Add and subtract up to 4 digit numbers
- Estimation
- 2 and 3 dimensional shapes
- Lines of Symmetry
- Lines, points, and angles
- Customary and metric units of weights, measurements, and volume
- Perimeter and Area
- Money
- Time to the nearest 5 minutes
- Temperature
- Read and write decimals
- Understand Fractions
- Numerator & denominator
- Identify fractional parts of a whole

Science

The three major areas of science: life, earth and physical are all addressed in third grade.

Life: Plants

- Structure and function
- Life cycle

Earth: Solar System

- Order of the planets
- Movement
- Relationship of Earth, moon, and sun
- Water cycle

Physical: Matter and Electricity

- Physical properties
- States of matter
- Physical and chemical changes

Social Studies

Instructional topics

- Regions of New Jersey and cultural influence of the Lenape Indians
- Regions of the United States
- U.S. monuments, U.S. symbols.

- Immigration, cultural influences on the United States, prejudice and tolerance world-wide. The Holocaust is integrated throughout the instructional units of study

Spanish

This is an introductory course, exposing third graders for the first time in their school career to the Spanish language and culture. The course will provide a foundation in basic, relevant vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, literacy and conversational skills in Spanish. Culture is an integral part of each lesson.

Grade Three Enrichment (GTE)

Identified students in third grade participate in weekly pull-out classes that emphasize the “Five Traits of Competent Kids” (caring, courage, creativity, above average ability and task commitment) and cultivate the students’ unique abilities to think critically and creatively. Students examine relationships as they conduct research, build meaning and concepts, solve problems, and develop self-direction and independence.