

Third Grade Curriculum

Reading

The purpose of the third-grade reading program is to provide students with ample opportunities so as to develop lifelong literacy. Fluency and understanding improve as students are presented with the following:

- Decoding skills
- Root words, prefixes and suffixes
- Synonyms and antonyms
- Using context clues to clarify meaning
- Figurative language
- Using skimming, scanning, visualization and surveying techniques
- Identifying the elements of a story: setting, characters, problem, solution and ending
- Identifying structure of nonfiction texts to improve comprehension (e.g., compare/contrast, cause and effect, etc.)
- Interpreting vocabulary, recall, inference, and sequential questions
- Guided reading using leveled books

Language Arts

Components of a balanced language arts program emphasize the following skills:

- Utilize spelling rules on both spelling tests and written exercises
- Identifying sentence parts including subject and predicate
- Identifying the parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives
- Demonstrating use of plurals and possessives
- Using a variety of resources: glossaries, dictionaries and thesauruses
- Demonstrating attentive listening skills during instruction and oral presentations
- Presenting oral reports; tell a story, give directions, interviews, etc.
- Practicing socially accepted communication skills

Writing

Third grade students begin to develop an awareness of cohesive writing using the following skills:

- Spelling
- Capitalization and punctuation
- Writing in complete sentences
- Writing paragraphs with focus including a main idea, specific details and elaboration
- Creating complete works including poetry, creative writing, expository, persuasive and narrative essays

Math

Through the use of the Scott Foresman enVision Math series, students are taught computational decision-making skills so as to:

- Read, write and order numbers
- Estimate, round and compare whole numbers
- Apply addition and subtraction facts to solve multi-digit problems
- Introduce basic multiplication and division facts through 10's
- Identify place value to the hundred thousand position
- Identify fractions as part of a whole or part of a group
- Recognize geometric and number patterns
- Emphasize and reinforce problem solving strategies and skills
- Collect, organize and display data using tables, graphs, charts, and arrays
- Introduce students to probability and predictions
- Explain problem solving strategies in writing
- Telling time to the minute
- Apply measuring strategies and use

Science/Health

Students use hands-on experiments to explore the following areas of the solar system, earth science, forces in nature and health:

- Identify and explain natural cycles and patterns in the solar system and the natural cycles of the Earth's land, water and atmospheric systems.
- Identify the rock cycle including igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks; recognize and classify rocks and minerals

Science/Health cont.

- Explain motion and the factors that affect it: gravity, friction, balance, etc.
- Analyze the domains of health with focus on grooming and dental hygiene
- Recognize the food groups and analyze the importance of nutrients for body growth, development and energy
- Identify positive hygienic and exercise practices leading to good health

Social Studies

The Social Studies program directs students to communities, their locations, and the responsibility of being a community member.

- Compare and contrast types of communities, colonial to modern day
- Recognize how communities change due to economic and environmental factors
- Recognize how geography influenced Native American and early American communities
- Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of how different customs and cultures influence a community
- Identify historic figures and describe their contributions to the founding of our country.
- Study local and state governments including individual rights and responsibilities
- Recognize how people earn and use money to buy goods and services
- Study about national historic symbols and how pride and patriotism contribute to both society and individuals
- Recognize, compare and contrast the different types of information presented on maps and globes

Physical Education

Third grade students will:

- Follow directions and class procedures while participating in physical activities
- Participate in folk dancing
- Participate in rhythm activities and creative movement through dance
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship Identify offensive, defensive and cooperative strategies in selected activities and games
- Demonstrate control when performing fundamental locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills
- Understand spatial awareness and relationships to objects and people

Art

Third grade students will:

- Identify and describe the elements of 2- and 3-dimensional space, value and form; the principles of rhythm, size, proportion and composition; and the expressive qualities of symbol and story
- Understand how elements and principles combine within an art form to express ideas
- Demonstrate knowledge and skills to create works of visual art using problem solving, observing, designing, sketching, and constructing
- Describe how the arts function in commercial applications (e.g., mass media and product design)

Music

Third grade students will:

- Learn fundamental musical skills and knowledge through singing, moving, listening, creating and playing instruments
- Identify tempos with corresponding music terms (allegro, andante and largo)
- Identify brass, woodwind, percussion, and string families and instruments by sight and sound
- Describe occupations related to the arts and how the arts are used in television, movies and advertising
- Perform with accuracy simple rhythmic and melodic patterns combining note and rhythm reading skills by playing the recorder and other classroom instruments