

Major Grade Level Concepts and Skills – Grade 3

READING

Students learn the elements of fiction (character, setting, problem) in more complex stories. They can identify the main idea and supporting details in non-fiction materials. They acquire more tools (dictionaries, encyclopedia, and thesaurus) for learning.

Your child will...

- Use word parts such as letter patterns, syllables, roots, and affixes for decoding
- Expand sight vocabulary, select and use synonyms and antonyms, and dictionaries
- Increase his/her fluency, rate of reading, and use of strategies to self-correct
- Recognize and appreciate literary techniques (simile, humor, exaggeration, metaphors)
- Use prior knowledge about a topic to understand important ideas
- Answer higher level thinking questions orally and in writing
- Begin to generate questions that form patterns, sequences, or comparison/contrast of the information

Parents can...

- Encourage your child to pick different types of reading materials (chapter books, poetry, mysteries, adventure stories, magazines)
- Read some of the same books so you can share reactions and thoughts
- Sit with your child as she/he reads silently, judge when he/she is stuck or not understanding. When that happens, ask him/her to retell what he/she knows so far.
- Ask higher level thinking questions which begin with why, what if, and how

LANGUAGE ARTS

Third graders are becoming more sophisticated with their writing. They continue to use the writing process, improve skills, and expand the different forms they can write.

Your child will...

- Develop clear main idea with supporting details
- Write a complete paragraph (topic sentence, details, and closing sentence)
- Write narrative with clear beginning, middle and end while maintaining time and setting
- Show awareness of audience and write to a prompt
- Use a variety of sentence lengths and types and subject specific vocabulary
- Edit for punctuation, spelling and grammar in final draft
- Write for different purposes

SOCIAL STUDIES

During the year, children will study the four major U.S. environmental regions (woodlands, plains, desert, northwest coast)

Your child will...

- Identify the states and geographical features for each region
- Know the specific animals and plants for each region
- Identify natural resources and any environmental concerns/solutions
- Apply data gathering, interpreting, and reporting skills

TECHNOLOGY AND LIBRARY - *Your child will...*

- Develop the necessary skills to gather, organize, evaluate, and communicate information
- Acquire skills to access available technology
- Gain an understanding and appreciation for literature

MATHEMATICS

Third graders deepen their understanding and application of math concepts. Problems solving and reasoning skills are embedded with skill practice. Manipulatives continue to support the learning.

Your child will...

- Understand place value up to 10,000
- Add and subtract 3-digit whole numbers with regrouping and know basic facts
- Use models/diagrams/symbols to understand the concept of multiplication and division
- Know multiplication facts to 10
- Identify, construct, and compare fractions with like denominators
- Use standard form when reading & writing open sentences ($3 \times ? = 18$)
- Select appropriate units and tools to measure in different situations
- Describe location of a figure on a coordinate plane using ordered pairs
- Collect and organize information into a bar, circle, or line graph
- Devise experiments to determine probability of events and state as ratio
- Apply a variety of problem solving strategies, explain answers verbally, pictorially, or in writing.
- Try a new approach when one is not working

SCIENCE

Students apply the scientific method as they conduct experiments and participate in hands-on activities to explore concepts. The wetlands field trip in the spring reinforces their understanding of ecosystems and the role of wetlands in the environment.

Your child will...

- Learn that sound originates from a source, how it travels, and how it can be amplified
- Acquire the vocabulary associated with the physics of sound
- Understand how several themes in science relate one scientific idea to another
- Explore the field of astronomy by studying the solar system
- Explain shadows, twinkling stars, changes in the moon, and telling time
- Name and describe groups of stars, the role of the North Star, and the sun
- Understand living/non-living parts of an ecosystem
- Identify wetlands by plants, soil, and water

PE/HEALTH

Your child will...

- Learn dental health principles and nutrition for a healthy body
- Identify messages about safe and unsafe behaviors
- Develop teamwork skills by participating in games and activities
- Practice movement skills and understand fitness concepts

MUSIC/VISUAL ARTS

Your child will...

- Read and perform more complex rhythms and play/move to a strong beat
- Identify various instruments by sound and classify by instrument family
- Continue to learn melody, form, and harmony