

THIRD GRADE

Reading and Language Arts

The Third Grade reading and language arts curriculum fosters a love of reading and writing. The program includes differentiated instruction in decoding strategies for unfamiliar words, reading with fluency and expression, and comprehension strategies. Students move from literal comprehension to higher order comprehension skills that involve analysis and inferential thinking as they read a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. Student progress is assessed over the course of the year using the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. In Third Grade, the students participate in a writing workshop using the units of study developed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. The students write on a daily basis, and they learn how to work through the process of brainstorming, organizing their ideas, writing a rough draft, conferencing with the teacher and peers, revising, editing, and publishing a final copy of their work.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Read texts in a wide variety of genres and use comprehension strategies to understand the main elements of the story, the author's purpose, and important themes
- Write personal narratives, informational pieces, opinion pieces, creative stories, and poetry
- Practice grammar skills and writing mechanics through mini-lessons involving their own writing
- Research a famous American and write a biography including important accomplishments and life events

Math

The Third Grade uses the Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley mathematics curriculum. The program teaches students key math concepts through problem-solving instruction, hands-on activities with manipulatives, and math problems that involve reading and writing. Student progress is assessed over the course of the year through ongoing classroom observation, quizzes, and unit tests.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL LEARN SKILLS SUCH AS:

- Solving multi-digit addition and subtraction problems with regrouping, and learning multiplication and division facts through the twelves
- Applying a variety of strategies including drawing a table, making a chart, drawing a picture, working backwards, and using a graph to solve word problems that involve real-life applications
- Exploring fractions and decimals and how these concepts relate to other concepts such as probability and measurement

Science

Third Graders are curious about the world around them, and the science curriculum, which is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), supports students in understanding real-life applications of scientific concepts. For example, during the study of interdependent relationships in nature, the students create a model ecosystem to help them understand the role of biotic and abiotic factors in supporting healthy and sustainable ecosystems. Over the



course of the year, the curriculum includes the following units of study in life science, physical science, and earth science: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Inheritance and Variation of Traits, Forces and Interactions, and Weather and Climate.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Plan and carry out experiments, analyze data, discuss conclusions, and present findings
- Employ reading and writing skills to learn about scientific concepts and to communicate about learning

Social Studies

In the first half of the year, the social studies curriculum focuses on the early history of the United States of America as students study explorers, early settlements such as Jamestown and Plymouth, the formation of the American colonies, and the Revolutionary War. In the second half of the year, the class embarks upon an in-depth study of the fifty states, with each student focusing on one particular state. This research project culminates in the State Fair when the students present

information about their state in a variety of forms and take on the persona of a famous person from their state for the Wax Museum.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Read, discuss, summarize, and take notes on key facts from non-fiction and historical fiction texts
- Make and interpret maps, globes, graphs, charts, diagrams, tables, timelines, models, and illustrations
- Complete a research project on one of the fifty states using a variety of sources

World Languages (Spanish/French)

World language study in the Third Grade offers the students an introductory program in Spanish and French. Each language course covers one-half year, and classes meet two days per week. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the program, and the students are introduced to the culture and traditions of the French and Spanish speaking world. Language learning is enhanced by the use of technology.