



THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

OVERVIEW

Third-graders prepare for learning California history in the fourth grade and United States history in the fifth grade by thinking about continuity and change in their local community. In exploring their local community, students have an opportunity to make contact with times past and with the people whose activities have left their mark on the land. Students ask questions, read and analyze texts, including primary and secondary sources, engage in speaking and listening activities, and write a variety of texts.

In third grade, students build on their knowledge of geography, civics, historical thinking, chronology, and national identity. The emphasis is on understanding how some things change and others remain the same. To understand changes occurring today, students explore the ways in which their locality continues to evolve and how they can contribute to improvement of their community.

Finally, teachers introduce students to the great legacy of local, regional, and national traditions that provide common memories and a shared sense of cultural and national identity. Students who have constructed a family history in grade two are now ready to think about constructing a history of the place where they live today. With sensitivity toward children from transient families, teachers may ask students to recall how the decision of their parents or grandparents to move to this place made an important difference in their families' lives. Discovering who these people were, when they lived here, and how they used the land gives students a focus for grade three. Teachers should also work collaboratively with their colleagues who teach kindergarten and grades one and two to avoid repetition. The content themes they begin in kindergarten, such as understanding of and appreciation for American culture and government, geographic awareness, and (starting in grade one) economic reasoning, serve as a multigrade strand that can allow an extended and relatively in-depth course of study.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts is integrated into all areas of the curriculum and includes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

READING

The third grade reading program is literature-based. One important goal of this program is to instill a love and appreciation of literature. The reading selections are based upon general themes such as what schools are like in other countries, frogs and other amphibians, fairy tales and water on Earth . Some of the reading selections relate directly to the cultures studied this year. Third grade students move beyond the literal meaning of the text to the inferential and respond independently and personally to the literature.

Skills

- Develop vocabulary
- Apply phonetic and syllabification rules to decode new words
- Read aloud with fluency and expression
- Develop reading strategies such as asking questions, making connections, inferring, visualizing

- Develop higher-level comprehension skills
- Find main idea
- Read for detail
- Compare and contrast
- Analyze character actions and traits
- Sequence events
- Predict events in a story
- Draw conclusions
- Find supporting material in text to verify conclusions
- Respond to oral and written questions
- Summarize a passage

WRITING

Focusing on the writing process, children write from personal experience and create original, imaginative stories. They work to develop topics, understand story structure, and learn the importance of fluent writing. We use the Lucy Caulkins “Writer’s Workshop” method. The students draft, revise, edit, and proofread their stories. Children use a concrete and systematic approach to construct complete sentences and to enhance those sentences. They also write in journals and learn to write letters, poetry, and a short research report.

Skills

Composition

- Brainstorm
- Write complete and complex sentences
- Elaborate with description
- Use similes and metaphors
- Organize ideas into paragraphs
- Draft, revise, edit
- Use dictionary effectively; use guidewords to locate words
- Learn to use a thesaurus
- Compare and contrast
- Proofread
- Conference (with peer and teacher)

Conventions (Grammar and Mechanics)

- Recognize phonetic patterns
- Memorize non-phonetic words, spelling rules, high frequency words, and sight words
- Master skills of capitalization and punctuation
- Recognize nouns, verbs, adjectives
- Understand prefix, suffix, synonyms, homonyms, antonyms

Spelling

- Comprehensive word-study program
- Weekly instruction & practice studying selected words based on spelling pattern/phonetic pattern
- Weekly review to reinforce spelling skills and serve as evaluative tool

- Weekly practice studying high-frequency and no-excuse words

MATHEMATICS

The goal of the third grade math program is to help children perceive mathematical relationships, including those in computational and non-computational situations. Students learn to move from concrete to abstract problem solving. Children manipulate math tools to build concepts in all areas of mathematics.

Skills

Numeration

- Read and write numbers to 99,999
- Understand place value to the thousandths place
- Count by 2s, 3s, 4s 5s, 10s
- Sequence numbers
- Determine highest or lowest number in a series
- Understand odd/even number patterns
- Computation
- Align numerals for an operation
- Form addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations
- Add, subtract to four digits with regrouping
- Add with missing addends
- Multiply using number lines, groups of and arrays
- Factors
- Identify square numbers
- Understand division as inverse of multiplication

Logical Reasoning and Relationships

- Solve attribute and logic problems
- Perceive patterns
- Graph data/interpret graphs
- Create and extend number and shape patterns
- Use symbols for equalities, inequalities in equations
- Understand fractions as parts of a whole
- Estimate

Measurement

- Money: Add, subtract, find equivalent sums of money
- Time: Tell time to minute; add, subtract minutes, hours
- Calendar: Know number of days in week, month, year
- Linear: Measure to nearest inch, foot, yard
- Measure perimeter
- Compute area
- Volume: Measure cups, pints, quarts, gallons; find equivalent measurements

Geometry

- Understand symmetry and asymmetry
- Recognize 2- and 3- dimensional figures and shapes

SCIENCE

Our science program enables students to learn about the scientific process through a hands-on program. Students learn how to collaborate, communicate, and develop critical thinking skills through age-appropriate experiments and activities that allow them to work together, discuss and predict, and make connections.

Units include

- Introduction to the Scientific Method
- Properties of Air & Water, with a focus on Venice, the “floating city”
- Study of air and water as it relates to weather
 - Weather – cloud formations, rain, snow, hail, thunderstorms, tornadoes
 - Compare and contrast weather in each of the stops along Marco Polo’s journey with our weather here in Dover
- Vertebrate animals and their classifications
- Animals that live in the Wetland – wood frogs, salamanders, snakes

Skills

- Observation
- Making predictions
- Defining problems that can be tested
- Use of Models to describe or predict phenomena, test cause & effect
- Classification
- Measurement
- Comparison
- Recording data
- Organization of data
- Interpretation of data
- Perceiving relationships

ART

Third grade art is a sequential program integrating the life of a student and thematic studies with an in-depth study of studio art. Students complete projects such as Venetian stained-glass windows and Chinese brush gesture paintings to connect to the classroom theme of Traveling with Marco Polo.

Shapes, Marks, and Lines

- Self-portrait drawings with various facial expressions
- Observational landscape drawings
- Stained glass window collage
- Printing with rubber letter shapes

Color

- Mixing flesh tones in self-portrait clay masks
- Balancing color in stained-glass window collage
- Mixing and balancing complementary colors in rug designs
- Exploring color and mood in Carnival Masks

Pattern and Design

- Geometric and arabesque patterns in rug designs (focus on positive/negative space)
- Symmetrical designs using letters in a stained glass window collage

Relief and 3-D Form

- Carving textures and shapes into soft-cut block in a printmaking process
- Clay relief self-portrait masks
- Carnival mask construction

LIBRARY

In the third grade, students are encouraged to become more independent in their use of classroom and school library resources and are given formal instruction on using the online library catalog database. Students are also introduced to the Dewey Decimal System and practice locating both fiction and nonfiction books in the library. During weekly read-alouds, students continue to work on active listening and critical thinking skills as we look at more sophisticated plot lines, character development, and comparative literature.

Literature Appreciation Skills

- Active listening
- Comprehension Skills: Analysis of plot, characters, storylines
- Evaluate new books for content, illustrations, subject appeal
- Participate in reader's theater
- Read independently
- Demonstrate awareness of literature from various cultures

Information Literacy Skills

- Browse and choose books
- Independently check books out
- Identify parts of books (e.g. title page, table of contents, index, bibliography, etc., and the function of each)
- Continue to work on alphabetization
- Use online computer card catalog
- Locate a book by author's name and by Dewey Decimal classification

TECHNOLOGY

The technology program at Grizzly Hill starts with the why – why should we teach technology at all? The answer is we don't teach "technology;" we teach self-reflection, empathy, and problem solving (know ourselves, understand others, and shape the future). The medium we work within to accomplish this is digital tools, and we teach students both existing skills and how to learn new technology on their own. While the process of learning new tools is inherently valuable (growth mindset, exploration, logic, sequential thinking, curiosity), ultimately we teach technology because of the opportunities it can provide for students to improve themselves and make a positive impact on the world.

In third grade, the focus is on introducing new computer science topics, basic video editing, voice-over narration, keyboarding, animation, building and programming robotics, and online safety..

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education program is developmental and skill-based. In grade three, children develop their skill levels and learn to work together as a team. They strive toward greater awareness of others and receive an introduction to sports skills.

Skills

- Throw and catch
- Develop balance, coordination
- Run, hop, skip, jump, dribble, kick, volley
- Develop social skills and positive self-concept
- Develop cooperation, teamwork, and sportsmanship
- Develop body and spatial awareness
- Develop sense of rhythm

Activities

Soccer,, kickball, obstacle course, stations, relays, basketball, frisbee, group initiatives, track and field, rhythmic movement, and cooperative games.