



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **Third Grade**



Sun Prairie Area
School District



Child Development

WE KNOW...

“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”

Source: *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14*, by Chip Wood

Physical Development

- Third graders gain strength in both big and small muscles; can play and be active for longer periods without getting tired.
- They use the small muscles in hands better; do much better with handwriting, scissor skills and manipulating things like buttons, zippers and shoelaces.
- They start being able to run farther and for longer.

Social and Emotional Development

- Third graders often enjoy socializing, even in the midst of individual or group work, and begin to expand to larger friendship groups.
- They love to share their humor, what they think is funny.
- They often bounce back quickly from mistakes or disappointment.
- Many seek peer' approval as much as the teacher's.
- They have a growing sense of moral responsibility and awareness of fairness and issues beyond themselves.

Third-Grade Experience

Third graders will ...

ART

- Create art about what they see, feel, remember, and imagine
- Elaborate visual information by adding details in an artwork to enhance meaning
- Determine messages communicated by an image and identify meaning
- Plan subject matter, materials, and process for art creation
- Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces
- Use art vocabulary to express and describe preferences about artwork
- Actively incorporate The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process
- Identify exhibit space and prepare works of art including artist's statements for presentation
- 3rd grade media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture to create meaningful works of art

HEALTH

- Identify situations that require a thoughtful decision
- Demonstrate ways to prevent health risks and conflict through communications
- Describe how to ask for assistance
- Discuss nonviolent strategies to reduce, manage, or resolve conflict

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Performs a sequence of locomotor skills, transitioning from one skill to another smoothly and without hesitation
- Applies simple strategies/tactics in chasing & fleeing activities
- Exhibits personal responsibility in teacher-directed activities
- Describes the concept of fitness and provides examples of physical activity to enhance fitness
- Recognizes the role of rules and etiquette in physical activity with peers
- Describes the positive social interactions that come when engaged with others in physical activity

MUSIC

- Sing alone and with others in a tuneful and healthy way
- Perform various rhythms and melodies with their body and on various instruments
- Describe music and form opinions using appropriate vocabulary
- Move expressively in response to different styles of music
- Identify different sound characteristics, common instruments and their roles in a variety of ensembles and genres
- Be quiet audience members and reflect on the music afterward
- Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette
- Read and notate simple rhythms and melodies

End-of-Year Expectations

Third graders will know how to ...

Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

	READING	WRITING	
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retell stories and ask and answer questions Describe characters in a story (their traits and motivations) and provide evidence from the text Name the big life lesson (theme) the character learned Identify main idea and supporting details of nonfiction stories Use text features to build on to what is learned in nonfiction text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write an opinion piece that states the opinion, provides reasons in an organized structure with linking words, and provides a concluding statement or section Write information pieces around a topic that includes facts, definitions, and details to convey ideas and information around the topic. Includes linking words and a concluding statement or section Write narrative pieces based on real or imagined experiences using descriptive details, clear sequence, dialogue, transition words, and provide a sense of closure Use the writing process to strengthen writing by editing and revising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to read daily (20+ minutes.) Read with your child and talk about the characters, including what they are like (traits), how they change and what they learn. Ask your child about what they read. Help your child be responsible for any homework, reading logs, or projects. Practice writing through stories, letters, or poems.
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division Multiply and divide within 100 Solve word problems involving the four operations Add and subtract within 1,000 using place value properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate and solve problems involving time, mass of objects, and liquid volume Develop an understanding of fractions as numbers Understand concepts of area and perimeter Represent and interpret data Reason with shapes and their attributes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play math games. Challenge your child to solve problems in everyday situations at home. Ask your child to explain how they solved a problem. Use strategies taught in class to solve multiplication facts. Practice telling time and solving elapsed time problems (i.e. soccer practice starts in 30 minutes. What time does practice start?)
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct investigations, make observations, and record data Investigate balanced forces, unbalanced forces, and motion Understand that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles Understand how organisms interact with the living and nonliving things in their ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and interpret data from fossils to provide evidence of the organisms and the environments in which they lived long ago Obtain and combine information to describe climates in different regions of the world Create design solutions to reduce the impacts of weather-related hazards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to be curious by asking questions and solving them. Have conversations about the world around them.
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners understand how their identity is shaped and understand how human beings create, learn, share, and adapt to culture (Culture) Learners understand the relationships between people, places, and environments and understand how global connections have created both opportunities and challenges (Geography) Understand the importance of being a well-informed, active participant citizen in a democratic society (Civics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the principles, processes, structures and institution of government and how it influences the lives of its citizens (Civics) Use primary and secondary sources to answer questions about the past (History) Explain how people make choices about scarce resources and why people decide what to produce and what services to provide (Economics) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss current events and their impact. Discuss voting. Discuss where products you buy are made and how much they cost. Talk about how/where you get information. Use maps to help get you places. Help them understand the difference between a need and a want.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

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