

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
GRADE 3 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

English Language Arts

Wonders is a comprehensive research-based program addressing all areas of English Language Arts such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and writing. The lessons in *Wonders* are designed for the central purpose of interacting with text, and reading and writing are integrated throughout the program.

Overall, the *Wonders* program offers a balance of complex informational and literary texts, focuses on academic language, uses text-dependent questions to ensure reading and writing are grounded in text, incorporates close reading routines to guide students in making meaning of text and provides opportunities for analytical and genre writing. The program also provides leveled interventions to address individual student needs.

Reading Comprehension

Instruction is provided for growth in the analysis of fiction and nonfiction texts. Students demonstrate comprehension by applying strategies such as summarizing and making predictions. Students will apply skills addressing author's point of view, text structure, and inferencing. These skills help students reflect on what they are reading, and students will be asked to justify responses with evidence from text.

Vocabulary

The students are provided with a review of phonetic elements. They use knowledge of phonics, word analysis, (e.g., root words) and syllabication, picture and context clues to decode and understand new words during reading. Students identify and correctly use words (e.g., antonyms, synonyms, suffixes and prefixes) to acquire a reading vocabulary and become fluent, independent readers. Vocabulary is presented in context.

English - Grammar and Composition

Daily expression with a focus on complete sentences and paragraphs is an integral part of instruction. Students write paragraphs with topic sentences and relevant supporting details. Grammar skills (parts of speech, sentence types and mechanics) are taught, assessed and applied to writing. Using a variety of simple and compound sentences, composition skills are taught with the five-step writing process that includes prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing based upon writing traits. Narrative, informative, and opinion writing are taught. Additionally, there is a focus on analytical writing.

Spelling

The spelling program consists of weekly word lists and lessons using spelling patterns and strategies. Differentiated spelling lists will be provided.

Resources

Wonders 2020 (McGraw Hill) Language Arts Program, computer software, children's literature, Sadlier Grammar Workshop

Assessments

Students will be evaluated on tests, quizzes, in-class work, projects, and homework.

Mathematics

Math in Focus is the U.S. version of Singapore's most popular and proven math curriculum. Based on a framework developed by the Singapore Ministry of Education, *Math in Focus* draws on best practices from around the world and highlights problem solving as the focus. This research-based program is effective in balancing mathematic skills, hands-on experiences and problem solving to help all students achieve greater mathematic success. Learners will engage in problem solving requiring the application of number systems and computation. Math concepts will be applied to real-life situations through the study of data and graph organization, measurement, money, probability, estimation and geometry. A variety of activities will require learners to communicate through mathematical reasoning.

Resources

Math in Focus[®]: *Singapore Math* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) by Marshall Cavendish, computer software and manipulatives

Assessments

Students will be evaluated on in-class assignments, participation, homework, and tests.

Social Studies

The third grade social studies program focuses on communities past and present. Geography skills and United States history, beginning with the Native Americans through the American Revolution, are the essential elements of the third grade experience. Change and continuity, cultural unity and diversity, and interdependence are applied to the grade-level theme of community, state and world.

Resources

Houghton Mifflin Social Studies

Assessments

Students will be evaluated on in-class assignments, participation, homework and tests.

Science

The Science program is designed to support the academic standards in Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology. Students will explore content in the areas of life sciences, earth and space science, and physical science. In addition to foundational concepts, critical thinking, real-world application, and engineering will be integrated throughout classroom instruction. Employing an inquiry model helps further deepen students' understanding of scientific concepts.

Resources

Harcourt Science

Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: How Do Weather and Climate Affect Our Lives?
How Can We Predict Patterns of Motion?
What Explains Similarities and Differences Between Organisms?

Assessments:

Students will be evaluated on in-class assignments, participation, homework and tests.

Library/Keyboarding

Students are scheduled for the library as a class once a week for 60 minutes. Each student in third grade may check out two items at a time. Students may visit the library throughout the week to exchange books. Curriculum topics include: locate information, introduction to reference materials, and literature appreciation. Information skills include use of the Destiny library system, online application tools and vetted resources. Digital citizenship skills are taught using the Common Sense Media curriculum. At this grade level, keyboarding is also introduced and implemented.

Competencies

All students in third grade will:

- Demonstrate information literacy
- Demonstrate independent learning
- Demonstrate social responsibility
- Demonstrate technology literacy

Music

All elementary students participate in music and performance through singing, listening, and playing musical instruments. This academic discipline enhances logical and spatial reasoning skills by incorporating and strengthening the auditory and kinesthetic learning modalities.

Third grade vocal music classes meet twice a week for thirty minutes. Formal assessments are based on group performance in singing and playing instruments, reading rhythmic and melodic notation, and written and performance assessment. Achievement is determined by competency in skills, knowledge of concepts, as well as self and social responsibility. Hampton Township School District's Music Curriculum is based on the National Standards for Music Education.

Resources:

MusicPlayOnline

Physical Education

In third grade, the Physical Education program emphasizes the development of skills and fitness through the content areas of movement exploration, educational games, dance and tumbling. Student success is determined by knowledge of concepts, self and social responsibility and skill development. Tennis shoes and loose, comfortable clothing are required. Classes will meet twice a week for thirty minutes.

Art

The curriculum for grade three emphasizes learning through inquiry and meaning making. Students will examine aspects of the artistic process: idea generation, problem solving, and self-assessment. Students will investigate the integral role of art in other cultures. Students will combine knowledge of effective artistic processes and skills, and a variety of ideas to produce a work of art. Students will learn how to provide and receive peer feedback and how to assess their own work. Art classes will meet once a week for fifty-five minutes.