

# The American School in London

## Grade 3: Semester 1 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the first reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts. Your child's teacher will update you on their initial social, emotional, and academic progress at October conferences and provide a more formal report card in February.

### Approaches to Learning

Grade 3 students are encouraged to practice kindness, respect, responsibility, integrity and to demonstrate the courage to act. They learn to consider multiple perspectives and solve problems as they arise. Collaborative skills are fostered through partnerships, small groups, whole class activities and grade level gatherings. Through self-reflection, Grade 3 students continue to develop both a sense of personal identity and a growth mindset.

### Reading

Grade 3 students participate in a reading program that aims to develop independent and engaged readers. They select just right books across a variety of genres to practice reading fluently with accuracy and expression. Students learn to apply comprehension strategies to deepen understanding. They use context clues to connect, question, predict and infer independently, with partners, and within small groups.

### Writing

Grade 3 students write within a workshop model to develop the craft and skills of writing. They practice living the writerly life by gathering ideas, planning for writing and building stamina. Students write in a variety of genres, including personal narrative and informational writing. They learn to revise and edit their writing using rubrics, checklists and conferences. Students in Grade 3 work to develop an identity as an author.

### Speaking and Listening

Grade 3 students develop listening and speaking skills by engaging in meaningful experiences with a variety of audiences. Students practice listening and speaking across the curriculum in order to communicate ideas and deepen understanding. Through class discussions, oral presentations and group activities, students work toward developing confidence to speak in a variety of contexts. Active listeners are expected to embody the core values of kindness and respect as they demonstrate whole body listening.

## Math

Grade 3 students apply multiple strategies to solve problems and are expected to model and explain their mathematical thinking fully and clearly. Based on the Common Core State Standards and with an emphasis on conceptual understanding, students are engaged in practices that help them to draw connections between big mathematical ideas, make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. This semester, students broaden their understanding of addition, subtraction, and place value up to 1,000. They are introduced to the concepts of rounding, multiplication and division, and will use a strategy-based approach to build math fact fluency. Accuracy, efficiency and flexibility are developed through math games, the use of manipulatives and experiences with meaningful contexts.

## Social Studies

Grade 3 students develop cultural competency while building research skills to seek information about the world. They explore their roles and responsibilities in the classroom community. Third graders continue to develop different facets of their personal and social identities within a variety of communities. Students analyze and interpret various maps to uncover the stories that a map can tell. Students also learn geography-related vocabulary and read maps to orient themselves in our community.

## Science

Grade 3 students use the science practices of questioning, developing models, planning and conducting investigations to identify evidence and create explanations. Through observations, analysis and interpretation of data, students investigate the relationships between forces and motion and the differences in organism survival caused by acquired and inherited traits. Student-led investigations focus on cause and effect, structure and patterning to enable the application of scientific ideas. For example, students will use a design process to build a magnetic toy. Students have three, 60-minute lessons every eight days.

## Art

Grade 3 students develop their craft skills in a variety of art techniques, art mediums and purposes in creating art. They continue to look at and learn through the work and materials of a variety of artists and different art forms. Students collaborate on group work as well as on their own individual work by explaining the thinking behind the artistic choices they make. Grade 3 students explore the historical context of artworks and learn to combine different techniques and mediums in their own art. They are encouraged to stretch, engage, envision and express original ideas. Students have two, 50-minute lessons every eight days.

## Music

Grade 3 students continue to develop a deeper understanding of both rhythmic and melodic notation by playing a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments including xylophones and hand chimes. Recorders are introduced. Students use a variety of notation forms including conventional notation on a five-line staff when they compose for the recorder. Through listening activities and movement, students learn about form and structure in music while occasionally following listening maps. Ringing techniques and reading from a large score are further developed while using hand chimes. There are three, 35-minute lessons every eight days.

## PE

Grade 3 students develop their motor skills and movement patterns, application of concepts and strategies, and social skills through a variety of diverse learning experiences in the first semester. They engage in activities that help them work in groups to organize tasks, communicate their ideas, and offer support and encouragement to their classmates. Students develop the foundational movements of running, jumping, twisting, rolling, and spinning through a gymnastics unit. They explore tracking, catching, throwing, and hitting with a racket in a modified net games unit that includes variations of volleyball, badminton, and short tennis. Grade 3 also completes a modified invasion games unit where students learn to use tactics and strategy to improve their team performance in scenarios like handball and basketball. In the aquatics unit, students learn how to be safe in water and improve their swimming technique and endurance. Grade 3 students have PE every other day for 40 minutes.

## Spanish

Grade 3 students continue to develop their Spanish skills through exposure to authentic language, learning about the culture of different Spanish speaking countries and comparing them with their own. We start the semester by reviewing fundamentals from previous years while inviting each individual student to reflect on their Spanish and work on those areas they may need more practice with. The program has a strong focus on speaking and listening skills, but also gives students the chance to read and write at various levels. Students have three, 35-minute lessons every eight days.