

north cobb christian school

THIRD GRADE

3rd CURRICULUM

BIBLE

Third grade students dig deeper into the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and Daniel. Their experiences teach students much about the rewards of living for God. Each of these men faced adversity, but by God's grace they remained faithful. Students study the character, discipline, strength and wisdom given by God to these men, while also memorizing Scripture applicable to both Bible lessons and to life. To better utilize the Bible, students learn the order and spelling of all Old and New Testament books.

MATH

Students build on the six strands of mathematics: number sense, operations and computations, measurement and geometry, patterns and relationships, mathematical reasoning, and data analysis. Direct instruction, guided practice and collaboration with classmates provide hands-on opportunities to learn math skills while developing critical thinking. An emphasis is placed on using computation skills with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in conjunction with problem solving activities as they master multiplication facts through 12, and division through 9. The use of place value and fractions establishes algebra readiness skills. Students continue relating math to life experiences through authentic application opportunities.

READING

Third grade immerses students in reading comprehension skills, such as main idea and supporting details, drawing conclusions and author's purpose, cause and effect, character, plot, sequence of events and summarization. Students learn to utilize visual tools to organize thinking and apply comprehension skills during teacher read-alouds of quality literature. Students also read fiction and nonfiction literature texts matched to their instructional level, create visual tools using the Elementary SPECS Log during independent practice, and participate in small groups to analyze what they have learned about the comprehension skill through the visual tool. During small group, teachers create a group visual tool, compiling students' thoughts and modeling the tool, again. Instructional feedback is given during regular one-on-one reading conferences between teacher and student. Vocabulary instruction includes word knowledge, sentence usage, student word work and a student-drawn illustration of the word in the SPECS Log. Intellectual Art is utilized as a review for assessment.

SPELLING + VOCABULARY

Language acquisition in third grade focuses on spelling and vocabulary. Students memorize weekly spelling words and apply the words to oral and written vocabulary. The students use their knowledge of a word's meaning to engage in identifying synonyms and antonyms, using prefixes and suffixes to change word meanings, and learning Latin roots.





SCIENCE

Third grade students engage in an interactive study of science. With the foundational understanding that God is the Creator and Designer of all, students continue developing the scientific skills of questioning, observing, hypothesizing and experimenting. Units of study include earth science (rocks and minerals, landforms and landform changes, pollution), life science (human body), and physical science (electricity and technology). Classroom content is enhanced via hands-on experiences, where students explore and investigate. STEAM activities are regularly integrated to encourage collaboration and critical thought.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students launch into the exploration and founding of the United States through the four strands of history, geography, government, and economics, taught from a biblical worldview. The geography strand focuses on developing map reading skills, including location of the equator, prime meridian, and other lines of latitude and longitude. The government strand considers the three branches of the federal government, as well as characteristics of a good citizen. The history strand explores Native Americans and early government. Students examine early American Indian cultures and the formation, growth and change of communities. The economic strand investigates the four types of productive resources and distinguishes between goods and services.

WRITING & GRAMMAR

Students explore writing through a variety of genres. The Writer's Stylus approach directs students to use the tools of grammar to become influential writers. Grammar skills, including capitalization, punctuation, and parts of speech, are interwoven with writing units. Student skills grow through the authentic analysis of published works and the intentional practice of essential grammar rules. Revision skills are taught through direct instruction, modeling and coaching.

3RD GRADE SPECIALS

ART | WEEKLY

In third grade, students learn new color combinations, such as intermediate and complementary colors, as well as tints and shades. They apply these principles through various media, techniques and processes, including drawing, painting, weaving, embroidery, ceramics and sculpture, while they also advance in their care and safety when using art supplies. Students move into proportion and perspective principles in their landscapes and portraits. Art and techniques from different cultures and master artists continue to be introduced, as well as biblical integration and examples.

MUSIC | WEEKLY

Students study the recorder and continue the use of other melodic classroom instruments. Students add the whole note to their rhythmic repertoire and continue using solfège and note names on the treble clef staff as they work on melody skills. Identifying orchestral instruments and classifying them by instrument family and sound is also studied, as is identifying musical form and using appropriate musical vocabulary to describe music. Students also work on improvisation, and they develop performance skills through Grandparents Day, Christmas and Spring Programs.

P.E. | WEEKLY

Physical Education emphasizes continued motor and movement skill development, and the development of an appreciation for participation in physical activity while fostering habits of lifetime wellness and inclusive social skills. Through individual, dual and group participation in physical activities, students increase understanding of the interrelationship of physical, spiritual, emotional and social well-being. They also set and achieve goals in personal, cooperative and competitive activities. Students gain leadership skills through positive attitudes and peaceful conflict resolution.

SPANISH | WEEKLY

Students are able to demonstrate comprehension of vocabulary words and Bible verses in the Spanish language, as well as appreciation for elements of Hispanic culture. Students engage in classroom experiences through games, songs and chants, and they communicate using short questions and answers. Units of study include numerals, names of extended family members, food, the calendar, seasons, community, likes and dislikes, and the Spanish alphabet.

TECHNOLOGY + STEAM | WEEKLY

Students expand upon digital citizenship, basic programming, keyboarding, vocabulary, 3D design and web searches. The foundations for peer-to-teacher and peer-to-peer collaborative skills are reinforced with Google Classroom. Students engage in computer exercises that strengthen cognitive reasoning skills while exploring graphic arts, word processing, spreadsheets, slideshows and data collection through Google Apps for Education. STEAM projects are also integrated regularly.

