

# The American School in London

## Grade 3: Semester 2 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the second 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.

### 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 and whole class activities. Active listeners are expected to embody the core values of kindness and respect as they demonstrate whole-body listening by making eye contact, exhibiting positive body language, taking turns and responding respectfully. Through self-reflection, Grade 3 students continue to develop both a sense of personal identity and a growth mindset.

### Reading

The Grade 3 reading program develops independent and engaged readers. Students practice selecting just right books across a variety of genres to read fluently with accuracy and expression. Students learn to apply comprehension strategies to deepen understanding of text and use context clues to connect, question, predict and infer meaning. Reading skills and strategies are explicitly modeled and practiced during genre studies of realistic fiction, biography and informational texts.

### Writing

The Grade 3 writing program develops narrative and expository writing skills so students can express their ideas, observations, research findings, opinions and thought processes in each curricular area for a wide range of audiences. Students learn strategies to write for a variety of purposes: to entertain, describe and inform. Grade 3 students examine specific writing structures, such as paragraph formation, nonfiction text features and narrative story elements. Using the Writer's Workshop model, students progress through the writing process, brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing written work. During the second semester, Grade 3 writers publish opinion pieces and original fairy tales.

### 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 to communicate thoughts, build on the ideas of others and deepen understanding. Through class discussions, learning shares, oral presentations and group activities, students work towards developing the confidence to speak in a variety of contexts.

## Math

The Grade 3 math curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on sense making, reasoning, problem solving, and flexible thinking. Students develop efficient strategies to tackle problems and work to explain their mathematical thinking clearly, and continue to apply a variety of skills to solve complex problems. During the second semester, students further explore strategies for multiplication and division while developing automaticity with the products of two single-digit numbers. They will explore connections between division and fractions and refine their measurement skills. In the study of geometry, students strengthen their spatial reasoning skills with a focus on quadrilaterals and are introduced to the concepts of area and perimeter.

## Social Studies

Grade 3 students build research skills to seek information about the world. Learners will use a critical lens while examining resources about Victorian England and exploring how historians construct stories of the past. Students address the question, "Was life equal for all Victorians?" by asking research questions, seeking information from a range of sources, and considering different perspectives. Third graders will then use the lens of truth to examine the world we live in today. What stories are kids being told by today's media, and where can they leverage their powers of persuasion to advocate for change?

## Science

Grade 3 students use the scientific practices of analyzing and interpreting data to obtain and combine information to construct arguments. Through consideration of cause and effect, systems and patterning, students investigate life cycles and traits, weather and climate and the impact of environmental change. Focusing on the relationships between organisms and habitat, students identify changes which affect survival. This learning culminates in students developing a model of an island ecosystem.

## Spanish

This semester, Grade 3 students will continue to work on securing their listening skills and using Spanish to share about their identities. We will learn about the different parts of a community and how to work together to make it better. Some of the vocabulary words we will be using include directions, parts of a city, professions and leisure activities.

## Art

This semester, students will continue developing their drawing and painting skills with an expectation to continue to sketch and investigate personal ideas through the art-making process as they engage in a variety of projects. Through observations, color theory and painting techniques, students will explore how colors can be used to create art and communicate imaginative ideas using paint and soft pastels. They will look at the relationship between nature and multicultural art such as the 'Huichol' art and the 'Arts and Crafts movement' for inspiration. Students will end the semester by doing printmaking.

## PE

This semester, students will continue to participate in activities that develop their locomotor and cooperative skills. Students continue to acquire greater body control and awareness through dance, hula hooping, and jump roping activities. Students will learn running, jumping and throwing techniques and start to learn the basic principles of getting fit. As the semester progresses, students are introduced to multi-skilled activities that include throwing and catching and striking during our striking and fielding unit. Students will explore more invasion games skills and tactics using their hands and feet. Each class engages in one more aquatics unit, which focuses on endurance swimming and fun water games to introduce the ideas of health and sportsmanship in a positive environment.

## Music

This semester, Grade 3 students develop their instrumental ensemble skills, learning a number of pieces in two or three parts. They work on xylophone, boom whacker and chime skills. Following the introduction of hand chimes last term, the students begin to read from a large score while practicing their ringing technique. Singing is added to chime ringing. The students also practice partner songs as an introduction to part singing. Listening carefully to one another is an important ensemble skill that is practiced while singing and playing all the instruments. This ensemble skill ensures that different parts stay both balanced and in tempo. For the spring concert, each class designs and structures a piece for performance using a variety of instruments.