



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO THIRD GRADE

*Curriculum Department
Lee's Summit R-7 School District*



Third Graders will...

Literacy

- Apply word analysis skills in decoding words
- Read grade level text with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Use comprehension strategies to understand a variety of grade level texts
 - Ask and answer questions
 - Determine important ideas
 - Use text features
 - Make inferences
 - Use sensory images
- Use the writing process to develop and strengthen writing
- Write narratives based on real or imagined experiences/events using descriptive details and structured with a beginning, middle, and end
- Write informational texts with a well developed topic, facts, and a conclusion
- Write opinion pieces that name a topic, provide an opinion with reasons to support it, and include a concluding statement or section.
- Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing
- Speak and listen effectively in multiple contexts

Ways to Help at Home

- Encourage your child to read daily (20+ minutes).
- Read to and with your child, listen to audio books.
- Visit the library and check out books regularly.
- Share family stories and memories.
- Encourage your child to retell stories and facts they've read.
- Ask questions when reading with your child to support their understanding.
- Encourage all forms of reading; graphic novels, comics, picture books, articles, wordless picture books.
- Play word games.
- Write stories, letters, thank you notes, lists, recipes.
- Model reading and writing behavior you want to see from your child.
- Enjoy conversation with your child, talk to them about school, books, friends, interests, sports.

Mathematics

- Understand and explain what it means to multiply or divide numbers, e.g. 3×4 means 3 groups of 4
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division
- Fluently multiply all 1-digit numbers (know the multiplication facts)
- Solve word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Fluently add and subtract within 1000
- Understand the concepts of area and perimeter
- Relate the measurement of area to multiplication and division
- Understand fractions as numbers
- Compare the size of two fractions
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute
- Solve problems involving time, liquid volumes and the weight of objects
- Represent and interpret data
- Reason with shapes and their attributes

Ways to Help at Home

- Play math games:
 - I'm thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds and 4 ones. What's my number?
 - Using a deck of cards, deal 2 cards and ask your child to multiply the numbers as fast as they can.
- Challenge your child to solve problems in everyday situations at home.
- Practice telling time and solving problems involving elapsed time:
 - What time is it now? What time will it be in 28 minutes?
 - Soccer practice starts in 30 minutes. What time does soccer practice start?
 - The bus comes at 7:28. It takes me 40 minutes to get ready for school. What time should I get up?
- Have your child help with cooking when fractional measurements are used:
 - Measure $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of flour. Measure $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of sugar. Which is more?

Third Graders will...

Science

- Design and fairly test an object to solve a problem under constraints; then redesign the object based on testing outcomes
- Construct scientific arguments to support claims that some characteristics of organisms are inherited from parents and some are influenced by the environment
- Use evidence to explain how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving and finding mates
- Evaluate a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change
- Compare and contrast observations on the life cycle of different plants and animals
- Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular ecosystem some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive
- Predict how water will change from a liquid to a solid (freeze), and back again (melt), or from a liquid to a gas (evaporation), and back again (condensation) as the result of temperature changes
- Construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot

Ways to Help at Home

- *Have your child draw an invention and then change it to make it better.*
- *Go bird watching in your neighborhood and ask how the birds are similar and they are different from each other.*
- *Read an age appropriate book about a specific animal they are interested in.*
- *Talk with your child about animals that live in different parts of the world and how they are different.*
- *Talk with your child about ice, water and steam and how they are all forms of water.*
- *Have a conversation with your child about how water can change to ice and back to water, but you cannot 'unbake' a cake.*

Social Studies

- Engage in a yearlong study of our state of Missouri
- Analyze the impact of geography, economics, and governmental structures to study both the history and contemporary society of Missouri
- Generate and research compelling questions such as:
 - How has Missouri changed over time?
 - How is Missouri similar to and different from other states?
 - How has Missouri impacted the nation?
 - How are governmental decisions made at the state level?
 - How do Missouri's resources support the state and national economy?

Ways to Help at Home

- *Look for opportunities to share stories of Missouri history and local history with your child.*
- *Take your child to events happening in the community that celebrate Missouri's history and impact on the nation.*
- *Discuss local, state, and national elections and why they matter.*
- *Talk about the importance of voting and compare candidate's stances on issues.*
- *Discuss events and local current news.*
- *Talk about how state and local government impacts your life.*
- *Look for opportunities to show how the local economy impacts your life.*
- *Encourage your child to ask questions and find answers to their questions.*

Helping Your Child Learn

- Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
- Show interest in your child's school activities.
- Make school a first priority for your child.
- Read with your child.
- Children learn from example. Let your child see you reading and figuring out real life problems.
- Help your child with assignments.
- Encourage your child to engage in challenging tasks and persevere in completing them.
- Talk with your child. Ask your child what they like and dislike about school. Find out if your child is excited or disappointed about their day.
- Talk with your child's teacher about your child's academic and social/emotional progress.
- Limit the amount of time your child spends on video games, the internet, and television.

