

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

Third grade gracefully guides the students through the transition from Lower School to Upper School, mixing hard work and grit with exciting, fun projects and moments to celebrate learning.

Academics, character, and social-emotional learning are carefully and purposefully woven together in reading and writing lessons throughout the year, continuing to strengthen the academic and social development of children at this age.

The Gift of Words assignment and Wish for the World project are class favorites and examples of how students begin to understand the power of words and the impact that they can each have on the world!

In math, students dig deeply into multiplication and division problems using various strategies which students love to explore. The teachers craft real world applications and examples to solidify and apply mathematical concepts.

Students also enjoy field trips to Jefferson City bringing Missouri history to life and a trip to Faust Park where pioneer life becomes a reality for a day.

Third grade is a year filled with lessons, innovation, tradition and memories which students hold on to for a lifetime.

Reading

Develop key comprehension and active reading strategies including visualization, identifying main idea, summarizing, asking questions, making connections, sequencing events, determining author's purpose, identifying character traits, synthesizing, and determining cause and effect relationships | Complete Weekly Readers, short nonfiction passages on current events to apply comprehension and annotation skills in nonfiction contexts | Explore mystery stories, strengthening skills in inferencing and drawing conclusions by identifying evidence in the text.

Class literature includes: Gooney Bird Greene, The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, and Igraine the Brave

Language Arts

Continue to build upon the 6+1 Writing traits | Craft expository pieces developing topic sentences, claims, and descriptive supporting details | Develop a "Witch's Brew" recipe focusing on sequencing, descriptive language, and effective details | Identify a passion about which to write persuasively with developed reasoning | Reflect on touchstone personal experiences from which to create a personal memoir, using descriptive details to show emotions, taking care to organize the story with a climax, and incorporating dialogue complete with punctuation | Analyze and create various types of poetry using poetic devices | Practice public speaking by presenting original poems at the 3rd Grade Poetry Cafe | Complete and present a research project and slideshow on the state of Missouri, focusing on paraphrasing information, gathering facts about a popular figure or attraction in Missouri.

Mathematics

Continue Everyday Math curriculum | Solidify addition and subtraction of whole numbers, emphasizing problem solving strategies and practicing computational skills | Develop measuring sense in both the U.S. customary and metric systems | Examine place value in whole numbers and decimals | Develop and understand equivalent fractions | Explore geometric shapes, lines and respective terms | Use algorithms to multiply multi-digit numbers and develop division readiness | Identify the volume of rectangular prisms, investigating the concept of capacity while plotting coordinates on coordinate grids

Resources Include: Everyday Math

Grammar

Review nouns, verbs, adjectives and homophones | Identify complete sentences and correct run-ons and fragments | Punctuate dialogue and apply new understanding to writing memoir | Understand prepositional phrases and their importance in writing | Use helping verbs, possessive pronouns, and adverbs

Social Studies

Explore each region of the United States, studying states and capitals, regional history, climate, major landforms, and bodies of water as well as economic factors such as major industries and natural resources | Explore Missouri state history and government

Science

Investigate the scientific method and explore scientific process skills by conducting experiments related to force and motion and simple machines | Learn the three laws of motion and apply understanding to design simple machine experiments | Explore anatomy and functionality of human eyes and ears | Study states of matter and water | Write and illustrate a comic featuring a water droplet traveling through the water cycle | Examine clouds and the amazing world of lightening

Units of study include: Physical Science (Force & Motion and Simple Machines), Life Science (Anatomy and Body Systems), Earth Science (Water Cycle and Meteorology)

Art

Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Create observational drawings studying line and shapes in composition | Explore using line and shapes to create zentangles and multi-step patterns | Make a clay loom on which to study weaving patterns | Investigate figure drawing through gesture sketches and full figure drawings | Explore radial symmetry | Discover various types of printmaking and create a multi-step collagraph print

Music

Develop understanding of whole notes and rests | Apply different dynamics in songs to convey mood and musicality | Learn to read notes on the lines and spaces of treble clef | Sing solos, duets, and in rounds as a group | Study instruments of the orchestra, solidifying understanding of instrument classification in the four families (woodwind, brass, percussion, and string) | Identify the sounds of individual instruments in pieces of music to determine the family | Grow in understanding of what makes an instrument and how they are made | Discover “found sound” instruments made from different materials and create an instrument to perform | Foster active listening skills through solfege pitch matching exercises | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn and perform in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Create personal Spanish language dictionaries | Complete independent Spanish reading with comprehensible readers | Learn how to make requests and ask for help in Spanish | Understand high-frequency vocabulary in short-story context and learn to answer reading-comprehension questions in Spanish | Study Mexico's Independence Day and reenact the legend shown on the Mexican flag | Learn about Mexican tradition of Las Posadas and craft our own colorful lanterns

Resources include: Mira el Mundo Jr. | Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Storyteller's Corner Comprehensible Readers | Rockalingua

Library

Participate in "Book Talks" | Identify genres | Use call numbers to locate fiction and nonfiction books, including biographies and graphic novels | Write a book review | Explore Digital Citizenship concepts | Collaborate with core subjects on research methods

Physical Education

Our upper school curriculum is a sports based curriculum where students will move from skill development towards skill application. From our third to sixth grade, our curriculum fosters teamwork, character, and sportsmanship while also building individual skills and fitness in our students.

Units include: Soccer, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Tumbling, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Dance, Racquet Sports, Track & Field, Softball, Cross Country, Fishing, Climbing, and Fitness

Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 3 times a week
Social Studies -- 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Music — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Spanish — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Library — 45 minutes, once weekly
Physical Education — 45 minutes daily