



Learning Across the Year

• Third Grade •

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...

Vision: All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow.

Mission: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for 3rd grade, go to: www.gfps.k12.mt.us



Reading

In third grade, students select and combine skills to read fluently with meaning and purpose. Students demonstrate comprehension by participating in discussions, writing responses, and using evidence from different types of text. They read for pleasure and choose books based on personal preference, topic, or author. Third grade units include: Classic Tales, Animal Classification, Human Body, Ancient Roman Civilization, Light & Sound, Viking Age, Astronomy, Native Americans, Early Explorers of North America, Colonial American, and Ecology.

Writing

Students will be writing longer texts. They embed their ideas in time and place and develop characters through detail and dialogue. Students organize around a central idea and elaborate using complete sentences. Their writing is often divided into sections through paragraphing or text structure. Information gathering as part of the planning process is common, and students are becoming more selective about vocabulary, especially when writing informational texts. They listen to others' writing, offer feedback, and begin to consider suggestions from others about their own writing.

Language

Students in third grade understand and correctly use capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar when reading, writing and speaking. Students are encouraged to utilize content vocabulary and descriptive language to enhance their writing.

Speaking and Listening

In third grade, students engage in collaborative conversations. They are prepared to speak to others and follow agreed upon rules for discussions. They report on information, clearly explain their own ideas and ask and answer questions, speaking in complete sentences.

Handwriting

With better hand-eye coordination, students are ready to begin formal cursive handwriting. Third graders also practice basic keyboarding skills.

Math

Third grade students extend critical concepts of the base ten number system to include large numbers and formalize procedures for adding and subtracting large numbers. Students learn the meaning of multiplication and division and how these operations relate to each other. With a solid understanding of these two key operations, students are prepared to formalize the procedures for multiplication and division in grades four and five. By the end of 3rd grade, multiplication and division facts should be memorized. Students learn about fractions and how they are used, compare and order fractions and represent them in different ways.

Science

Children learn to observe, communicate, measure, classify/compare and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Forces, Life Cycles, Environments, and Weather.



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Social Studies

3rd graders develop social skills and an awareness of community through experiences centered around the topics: Landforms, Native Americans, Colonization, Frontier Life, Communities, US and Global Issues, Geography skills and Government.

Music

3rd graders listen, respond to and present music. They learn basic music symbols for notes, terms, and signs. They learn how to tell how many beats the notes represent. They identify symbols and signs on bar lines and time signatures.

Physical Education/Health Enhancement

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

Technology

Students will use a variety of digital tools appropriately and ethically to create, collaborate, communicate and solve problems.

Art

3rd graders are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

Counseling

Counseling lessons focus on personal and social development, academic development and career development. Third graders learn to identify their own interests and strengths and can tell which activities outside of school positively affect them in while in school.

Library

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment.

How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

- Make sure reading is part of your child's daily routine. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions for reading. Read together if possible or ask your child to tell you about the book he/she is reading.
- Ask questions such as: "Why do you think the author wrote this?" "What do you think?" "Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?" "What information can we get from reading this?"
- Encourage your child to find a picture (photographic or graphic) and write about it.
- Start a family vocabulary box and have family members add words to the jar. Challenge each other to use these words in conversation.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Encourage them to elaborate to encourage the use of vocabulary. Don't settle for one word answers. Ask specific questions or use the phrase "Tell me more." Ask questions to encourage multiple exchanges.
- Look for real-life math problems. Notice when you use multiplication and division and encourage your child to do so. Ex: "How many days in 4 weeks?" "How many stickers in 3 packages?" "How many will each person get if we have 36 in all?" "How many 6 inch lengths can be cut from 18 inches?"