



Third Grade Curriculum Guide

PRIORITY STANDARDS: District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the Science of Reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read. Key principles of the science of reading include:

Phonemic Awareness: The ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words is crucial for reading. Phonemic awareness involves tasks such as blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds.

Phonics: Phonics instruction teaches the relationship between sounds and the letters or letter combinations that represent them. It helps students decode words by recognizing and applying letter-sound correspondences.

Fluency: Fluent reading involves reading with accuracy, speed, and expression. Fluency is developed through practice and the application of phonics skills.

Vocabulary Development: Building a strong vocabulary is essential for comprehension. The science of reading emphasizes explicit vocabulary instruction and exposure to a rich and diverse range of words.

Reading Comprehension Strategies: Effective readers use various strategies to understand and interpret text. These strategies include making predictions, summarizing, asking questions, and connecting prior knowledge and new information.

Text Structure and Syntax: Understanding the structure of sentences and the organization of texts enhances reading comprehension. Instruction in syntax and text structure helps students navigate and comprehend written material.

Morphology: Morphology involves the study of meaningful units of language, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Understanding morphological elements contributes to vocabulary development and decoding skills.



Comprehension Monitoring and Metacognition: Skilled readers actively monitor their understanding of text and use metacognitive strategies to fix comprehension problems. The science of reading encourages the development of these metacognitive skills.

The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

MATH

In third grade, the goals of mathematics education are designed to build upon the foundational knowledge acquired in earlier grades and introduce more advanced concepts and skills. The overall goal is to provide a well-rounded and developmentally appropriate mathematics curriculum that prepares students for more complex mathematical concepts in subsequent grades. Third-grade mathematics education aims to foster a positive attitude toward learning math, build a strong foundation for mathematical thinking, and develop essential problem-solving and analytical skills. The goals for third-grade mathematics typically include:

- **Number and Operations:** Develop a deeper understanding of place value, including numbers up to 1000. Build fluency in addition and subtraction within 1000. Introduce and develop multiplication and division concepts.
- **Fractions:** Introduce the concept of fractions and understand basic fractional parts. Explore equivalence and comparison of simple fractions.
- **Multiplication and Division:** Master multiplication facts and develop fluency in multiplication. Understand the relationship between multiplication and division.
- **Measurement:** Explore measurement concepts involving length, volume, mass, and time. Use standard units and understand conversions between units.
- **Geometry:** Identify and classify two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. Understand and describe the attributes of shapes.
- **Data and Graphs:** Collect, organize, and interpret data using various graph types. Understand and analyze information presented in graphs.
- **Problem Solving:** Solve word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Develop problem-solving strategies and explain mathematical reasoning.
- **Patterns and Sequences:** Identify, extend, and create patterns. Understand and apply the concept of skip counting.



- **Place Value and Decimals:** Extend understanding of place value to include decimals. Explore the relationship between fractions and decimals.
- **Mathematical Reasoning:** Develop logical reasoning skills. Justify and explain mathematical thinking and strategies.
- **Communication and Mathematical Vocabulary:** Use appropriate mathematical vocabulary to describe and communicate mathematical concepts. Express mathematical ideas clearly and effectively.
- **Real-World Applications:** Apply mathematical concepts to real-world problems. Make connections between mathematics and everyday situations.
- **Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Engage in critical thinking by analyzing and evaluating mathematical information. Explore multiple approaches to problem-solving.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Third Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Addition & Subtraction Patterns
- Unit 2: Introduction to Multiplication
- Unit 3: Multi-Digit Addition & Subtraction
- Unit 4: Measurement & Fractions
- Unit 5: Multiplication, Division & Area
- Unit 6: Geometry
- Unit 7: Extending Multiplication & Fractions

SCIENCE

In grades K-5, District 92 utilizes Mystery Science, a standards-aligned science curriculum that engages students to explore scientific phenomena through hands-on activities. This approach helps students develop critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of scientific concepts. Mystery Science is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectations, science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. Third graders will investigate:

- Fossils & Changing Environments
- Life Cycles
- Heredity, Survival & Selections
- Weather & Climate
- Forces, Motion, & Magnets



SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

MUSIC

In third-grade music class, the focus continues to build upon the foundational musical concepts introduced in earlier grades. The goal is to further develop students' musical skills, deepen their understanding of musical elements, and encourage creative expression. Third-grade music class focuses on creating a positive and inclusive environment where children can deepen their musical understanding, enhance their skills, and express themselves creatively through music.

ART

The elementary art curriculum in District 92 is designed to provide students with a well-rounded art education that fosters creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for various art forms. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the elementary grades, introducing them to various artistic techniques, media, and concepts.

LIBRARY/MEDIA

In third grade, students typically build on the foundational library and media skills acquired in earlier grades. The focus is on developing more advanced skills to navigate information resources, fostering a love for reading, and promoting responsible and effective media use. By focusing on these library and media skills, third-grade students can become more adept at navigating information resources, critically evaluating content, and cultivating a lifelong love for reading and learning. These skills provide a foundation for academic success and responsible digital citizenship.