



A PARENT/CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO **Third Grade**



Sun Prairie Area
School District



Child Development

WE KNOW...

“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”

Source: *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4–14*, by Chip Wood

Physical Development

- Third graders gain strength in both big and small muscles; can play and be active for longer periods without getting tired.
- They use the small muscles in hands better; do much better with handwriting, scissor skills and manipulating things like buttons, zippers and shoelaces.
- They start being able to run farther and for longer.

Social and Emotional Development

- Third graders often enjoy socializing, even in the midst of individual or group work, and begin to expand to larger friendship groups.
- They love to share their humor, what they think is funny.
- They often bounce back quickly from mistakes or disappointment.
- Many seek peer approval as much as the teacher's.
- They have a growing sense of moral responsibility and awareness of fairness and issues beyond themselves.

Third-Grade Experience

Third graders will ...

ART

- Create art about what they see, feel, remember, and imagine
- Elaborate visual information by adding details in an artwork to enhance meaning
- Determine messages communicated by an image and identify meaning
- Plan subject matter, materials, and process for art creation
- Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces
- Use art vocabulary to express and describe preferences about artwork
- Actively incorporate The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process
- Identify exhibit space and prepare works of art including artist's statements for presentation
- 3rd grade media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture to create meaningful works of art

HEALTH

- Identify situations that require a thoughtful decision
- Demonstrate ways to prevent health risks and conflict through communications
- Describe how to ask for assistance
- Discuss nonviolent strategies to reduce, manage, or resolve conflict

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Performs a sequence of locomotor skills, transitioning from one skill to another smoothly and without hesitation
- Applies simple strategies/tactics in chasing & fleeing activities
- Exhibits personal responsibility in teacher-directed activities
- Describes the concept of fitness and provides examples of physical activity to enhance fitness
- Recognizes the role of rules and etiquette in physical activity with peers
- Describes the positive social interactions that come when engaged with others in physical activity

MUSIC

- Sing alone and with others in a tuneful and healthy way
- Perform various rhythms and melodies with their body and on various instruments
- Describe music and form opinions using appropriate vocabulary
- Move expressively in response to different styles of music
- Identify different sound characteristics, common instruments and their roles in a variety of ensembles and genres
- Be quiet audience members and reflect on the music afterward
- Demonstrate appropriate performance etiquette
- Read and notate simple rhythms and melodies

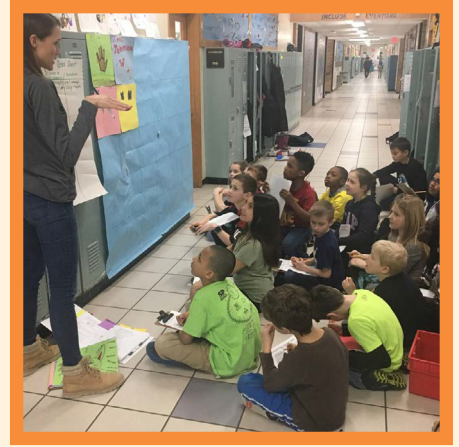
End-of-Year Expectations

Second graders will know how to ...

Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

	READING	WRITING	
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read and write grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words, and multisyllabic words (in and out of context) locating the base word, root word, prefix, or suffix. Spell multisyllabic words with common Latin suffixes; knows when to double the final consonant or to drop a silent 'e' when adding a suffix. Read orally with purpose, accuracy, fluency, appropriate pacing, and expression. Describe the overall structure of fiction and nonfiction texts, explain character traits, and use text features. Use supporting details to summarize portions of the text; identify a central idea. Explain how points the author makes are supported by reasons or evidence based on other texts, cultural perspectives, identities, eras, and personal events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write informative pieces that introduce a topic, group information logically, and include facts, quotations, vocabulary definitions, and a conclusion. Write narrative pieces (real or imagined) with a clear sequence using transition words, descriptive details, dialogue, and a narrator, and provide a sense of closure. Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion, use transition words to connect the opinion with reasons, and provide a concluding statement. Strengthen writing through planning, revising, peer reviews, and editing for both clarity and appropriate use of standardized English conventions (capitalization, punctuation, and spelling). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage your child to try various book series until they find a favorite author or character. Give them sticky notes to record larger words and important ideas. This will help them keep track of facts or events and relationships between characters. Read part of a book together. Then interview each other, playing the role of a character in the book. Ask each other questions about how their character's thoughts or feelings changed after events, the reasons behind their decisions or actions, and what lesson they learned. Find books, articles, and blogs that teach about topics your child is interested in learning. Practice writing in the same structure as the text, or re-create articles using high-interest words from the text and details to support the point of view or purpose. Practice reading and writing words that are interesting or important to your child. For example, if your child loves earth science, teach words about landforms or weather patterns. Play a 10-finger summary challenge after reading a book by identifying the main topic or central idea using one word for each finger! Have fun with figurative language used in books and everyday life. Use and explain some of the popular sayings, such as, "Tell me about it, I'm all ears!" and "You knocked it out of the park," or "The carpenter is as busy as a bee!"
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use efficient strategies to multiply and divide within 100, and to solve word problems about equal groups, arrays, and measurements, using drawings and equations. Solve two-step word problems with whole numbers using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Efficiently add and subtract within 1,000, including strategies based on place value, operations properties, and estimation. Understand fractions on a number line. Recognize whole as 0 to 1. Represent fractions by dividing intervals equally. Tell time to the nearest minute, measure time intervals, and solve word problems adding and subtracting time intervals. Measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses. Solve one-step word problems using grams, kilograms, and liters. Understand area as related to multiplication and addition. Find the area of rectangles, multiply side lengths, decompose shapes, and solve problems. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play fact fluency math games, and use strategies taught in class to solve subtraction and multiplication facts. Practice telling time and solving elapsed time problems. Ask questions like, "In how many more hours will it be 2:00?" or "Soccer practice starts in 30 minutes. What time does practice start?" Share with your child how to measure ingredients when cooking and baking, noticing fractions, ounces, grams, kilograms, and liters. To build comfort and flexibility in using place value and decimals, use money together in the community. Ask your child to estimate how much something might cost, how much money they will have with them, and how much money will be left after the purchase.
SCIENCE			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenge your child to solve problems in everyday situations at home. Ask your child to explain how they solved a problem. Encourage your child to be curious by asking questions and solving them. Have conversations about the world around them.
SOCIAL STUDIES			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss current events and their impact. Discuss voting. Discuss where products you buy are made and how much they cost. Talk about how/where you get information. Use maps to help get you places. Help them understand the difference between a need and a want.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

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