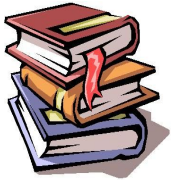




Third Grade Curriculum Overview



Literacy

The mission of the District 30 English Language Arts program is to challenge our students through effective instruction in the skills required to live and work in a 21st century global community. The primary grades lay the foundation for learning and skill development with a comprehensive reading program including phonological awareness and phonics instruction. Each succeeding grade builds upon the achievement of students, as they become fluent readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers. With texts and tasks that become increasingly sophisticated through the grades, students develop confidence and proficiency in oral and written language, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. District 30 recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction to maximize achievement for all students. Language skills are essential to furthering learning, communication, career development, and the human spirit.

The third grade balanced literacy curriculum includes:

- Explicit reading comprehension strategy instruction (integrating all reading strategies with an emphasis on “images”, “schema”, and “questioning”)
- Reading and writing in narrative, information, and opinion genres; including fairy tales, personal narrative, persuasive speeches, petitions, and editorials
- Word work (vocabulary, spelling, and phonics)
- Grammar
- Independent reading and writing
- Small group work
- Conferences



Social Studies

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to promote informed citizenship. Our curriculum is designed to tell the story of who we are as citizens of the United States and of a larger global society. As educators of 21st century learners, our job is to prepare students to be able to critically participate as active citizens with the ability to intelligently and compassionately participate in our democracy in this millennium (NCSS, Media Literacy, 2009).

Our curriculum thoughtfully integrates the disciplines of history, geography, economics, and civics to encourage young people to use inquiry to develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world. Units of study are grounded in the inquiry process, in which students acquire key concepts and skills through questioning, analysis, and critical thinking.

The theme of the 3rd grade curriculum is “Communities Near and Far”.

Units Include:

- Community
- Communities Change Over Time
- Chicago
- The Global Community

The District 30 curriculum is being developed in alignment with Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Standards and has been informed by current research and best practice in the field.



Mathematics

The District 30 mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Concepts are taught utilizing a concrete, pictorial, abstract learning progression through daily lessons, hands on activities, real-world problems, and differentiated math workshop experiences.

Mathematical thinking and fluency is embedded throughout the curriculum. Students become mathematicians engaging in a mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in solving problems, modeling mathematics, and utilizing appropriate math tools. These mathematical practices are distinct from specific content students learn because the practices are characteristics of broader behavior, rather than mastery of a single concept or idea.

The mathematical practices, skills and concepts connect and build across the grade levels. In grades K-5 students utilize Math in Focus by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as the primary resource.

3rd Grade Mathematicians:

- Use place value understanding to round whole numbers
- Add and subtract within 10000
- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers
- Solve problems involving measurement
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of area and perimeter
- Apply mathematical practices to real world situations



Science

The District 30 elementary science curriculum engages students as scientists. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices in earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering design.

The third grade science curriculum includes the following units:

- **Plants:** Students will design and conduct experiments to investigate plant growth and explore the life cycle of a plant using 40-day, rapid-cycling Wisconsin Fast Plants. Students will build understanding of interdependence through a detailed study of the structure and function of flowers and bees. Finally, students discuss inheritance and variance of traits in fast plants and other plants and animals.
- **Forces and Motion:** In this unit students will plan and conduct investigations to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object. They will ask questions to determine cause and effect relationships of electric and magnetic interactions between two objects not in contact with each other. Lastly, students will identify and describe a simple design problem that can be solved by applying a scientific understanding of the forces between interacting magnets.
- **Weather:** Students will observe and record patterns of the weather to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season within the United States. They will then observe and identify patterns of typical weather across different regions of the world. To conclude the unit, students will study the effects of atypical weather conditions and will determine how the impact of these effects can be reduced by technological advances in engineering design.

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