



# Curriculum & Learning Goals

## Third Grade

Our K-6 curriculum is thoughtfully designed to align with the District's overarching priorities, ensuring every student benefits from a transformative educational experience. Rooted in (1) innovation, (2) collaboration, and (3) holistic development, our curriculum fosters essential skills and dispositions through dynamic, hands-on learning experiences. Students engage in activities that develop communication, executive functioning, creativity, and critical thinking while nurturing curiosity, resilience, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility. This holistic approach ensures that every child grows as an empathetic, socially responsible lifelong learner, prepared to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world.

### Literacy

The NYSED English Language Arts (ELA) Learning Standards define the essential skills students need to become proficient readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. These anchor standards provide a consistent framework across grade levels, guiding educators in designing instruction that supports literacy growth and prepares students for success.

- [NYSED Reading Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Writing Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Speaking & Listening Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED Language Anchor Standards](#)
- [NYSED English Language Arts Learning Standards for Grade 3](#)



**Oral Language** – Students develop oral language skills by engaging in discussions, expressing ideas clearly, listening actively, and asking questions to deepen understanding. They use appropriate vocabulary, tone, and language structures for different audiences and purposes.

**Phonological Awareness** – Students strengthen phonological awareness by recognizing and manipulating sounds in spoken language, including syllables, onsets, rimes, and individual phonemes, to support reading and spelling skills.

**Phonics** – Students apply phonics skills by decoding and encoding words, using knowledge of letter-sound relationships, patterns, and syllable rules to read and spell accurately.

**Vocabulary** – Students expand their vocabulary by understanding and using new words in context, applying word parts (prefixes, suffixes, roots), and using resources like dictionaries and context clues to determine word meanings.

**Fluency** – Students improve reading fluency by reading texts smoothly and with expression, focusing on accuracy, appropriate pace, and comprehension to build confidence and understanding.

**Comprehension** – Students enhance reading comprehension by identifying key ideas, making inferences, and summarizing texts, using evidence from the text to support their understanding and responses.

## Mathematics

The NYSED Mathematics Learning Standards define the essential skills students need to develop strong mathematical understanding and proficiency over time. These standards aim to prepare students for a math-dependent world, allowing educators to create innovative programs. They balance conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and application, ensuring students are ready for post-secondary education and the workforce.



- [NYSED Mathematics Learning Standards for Grade 3](#)

**Operations and Algebraic Thinking** – Students understand multiplication and division through equal-sized groups, arrays, and area models. They use properties of operations to solve problems with single-digit factors and compare strategies to explore the relationship between multiplication and division.

**Number Sense and Operations-Fractions** – Students understand fractions by using visual models to represent parts of a whole, comparing fractions, and recognizing that the size of a fraction depends on the whole. They solve problems involving fractions greater than, equal to, or less than one.

**Measurement and Data** – Students recognize area as an attribute of two-dimensional shapes and measure it by counting unit squares. They understand that rectangular arrays can be decomposed into rows or columns, connect area to multiplication, and use it to find the area of rectangles.

**Geometry** – Students classify polygons based on their sides and vertices and relate fractions to geometry by expressing the area of part of a shape as a unit fraction of the whole.

## Science

[The NYSP12SLS are grounded in the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education and the Next Generation Science Standards](#), incorporating current research in science and learning. These standards emphasize students' engagement with natural phenomena through three interconnected dimensions: (1) Science and Engineering Practices, (2) Disciplinary Core Ideas, and (3) Crosscutting Concepts.

- [New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards for Grade 3](#)



The main foci in third grade are:

**Forces & Interactions** – Students investigate forces and motion by exploring interactions that change motion, including balanced and unbalanced forces, and how energy and forces relate. They predict motion patterns, explore magnetic and electric forces, and design solutions using magnets, building on prior knowledge of cause and effect.

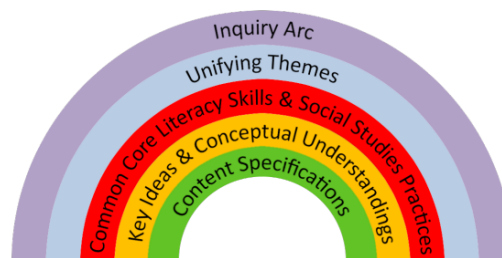
**Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems** – Students explore the interdependent relationships between plants, animals, and their habitats, investigating how organisms adapt to changes in their environment. They examine fossils, survival in different habitats, and how environmental changes affect species, focusing on cause and effect. Students use data to predict how organisms might survive or relocate in changing environments.

**Weather & Climate** – Students study weather patterns, climate, and the water cycle. They learn to predict weather and understand how natural hazards occur. They also explore how humans can reduce the impacts of these hazards.

**Inheritance and Variation of Traits** – Students explore how organisms have unique life cycles, inherited traits, and environmental influences on their characteristics. They learn that reproduction is essential for survival and that variations in traits can offer advantages for survival and reproduction.

## Social Studies

The NYSED Social Studies framework focuses on students examining families, cultural diversity, and responsible citizenship. They explore the role of authority in making rules, enhance geography skills through maps and directions, and learn about family history and its sources. Additionally, students are introduced to economic concepts related to family resources and decision-making. The NYS Social Studies Framework includes the C3 Framework from the National Council for Social Studies and can be illustrated as follows:



- [NYSED Social Studies Framework for Grade 3](#)

The main units in third grade focus on communities around the world:

**Geography, Humans, and the Environment** – Students use maps, globes, and satellite images to explore world regions, their locations, and how geographic factors influence settlement and lifestyle. They also examine how humans adapt to and modify the environment and efforts to protect it.

**Time, Continuity, and Change** – Students explore the unique histories of world communities by examining legends, folktales, biographies, and historical narratives that highlight important figures and events. They also investigate symbols, arts, music, dance, and literature that reflect the cultural traditions and history of each community.

**Development, Movement, and Interaction of Cultures** – Students explore similarities and differences by comparing family structures, schools, and cultural practices across world communities. They also study how cultural diffusion spreads ideas, goods, and traditions between communities.

**Civil Ideals and Practices** – Students compare governments worldwide, focusing on leadership, law enforcement, and citizens' roles. They explore human rights, the impact of prejudice and discrimination, and how people can support social change.

**Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems** – Students explore how world communities use resources to meet their needs and wants, examining surplus, scarcity, and how people earn a living. They investigate the production of goods and services, trade between communities, and how technological advances in transportation and communication have influenced trade and economics.

## Visual & Performing Arts

Third-grade students create and explore visual art using various materials and techniques, developing drawing, painting, and sculpture skills. They reflect on their artwork and connect it to personal experiences and cultures.

- [NYSED Visual Arts Standards](#)
- [NYSED Music Standards](#)

**Art** – Students create art using various materials and techniques, developing drawing, painting, and sculpture skills. They explore the elements of art, express ideas through their work, and make connections between art, culture, and personal experiences.

**Music** – Students develop skills in singing, playing instruments, and moving to rhythms while exploring essential music elements like melody and rhythm, as well as connecting music to emotions, storytelling, and other subjects.



## Physical Education & Health

New York State's updated Physical Education Learning Standards promote physical literacy, health, and social-emotional learning. Developed with input from educators and experts, they emphasize the connection between physical and mental health. The standards are implemented in three phases and align with broader wellness initiatives.

- [NYSED Physical Education Standards - Grade 3](#)

**Physical Education** – Students focus on improving their communication of emotions and ideas while becoming more aware of their peers. Physical education emphasizes effort, movement quality, and health-related fitness. Through various activities, students learn how healthy behaviors impact wellness and develop perseverance through challenges.



## Assessments

ELA	MATH	SCIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Word recognition, comprehension, and text complexity.</li><li>• Grade-level vocabulary and spelling</li><li>• Students' ability to organize ideas, use proper grammar, and communicate clearly in different writing formats</li><li>• End-of-year students' reading, writing, and language skills assessment to ensure they meet grade-level standards in English</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit assessments on key math concepts, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply strategies learned during the unit</li><li>• End-of-year assessment of students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts and skills, including arithmetic, problem-solving, and reasoning, to ensure they meet grade-level standards</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End-of-unit assessments on key concepts such as ecosystems, forces and motion, weather patterns, energy, and the impact of human activity, focusing on observation, reasoning, and real-world applications.</li></ul>
SOCIAL STUDIES	ART & MUSIC	P.E. / HEALTH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The end-of-unit assessments on students' understanding of geography, cultures, history, economics, and government, focusing on communities, historical events, and citizenship.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student work based on unit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fitness assessment</li></ul>