



Third Grade Newsletter

September/October 2025

Daily Schedule

8:05 - 8:35	Homeroom	11:45 - 12:45	Mod 2
8:35 - 9:35	Mod 1	12:45- 1:15	Recess
9:35 - 10:35	Fine Arts & Fitness	1:15 -1:45	Lunch
10:35 - 11:45	Mod 1	1:45- 3:00	Mod 2

Dismissal 3:00

Important Dates

September

Friday, 9/26 - 2 hour 45-minute early dismissal

October

Tuesday 10/7 - Fall picture day

Thursday 10/9 - Fun Run

Thursday 10/16 - 2-hour 45 minute early dismissal

Parent/Teacher conference night (Teacher request)

Friday 10/17 School closed for students

What are we learning?

Math This month in math we will be building on 2nd grade skills to continue developing an understanding of multiplication and division. We will be reinforcing the thought that thinking deeply and persevering through challenging tasks takes time and that is more important than speed. In October we will begin our next unit which focuses on using what students know about place value to develop models for adding and subtracting within 1,000. They will also be applying that knowledge to finding the perimeter of shapes and solving multistep word problems. Please see attached parent letter for more information.

Please continue to encourage your child to practice their basic addition and subtraction facts. Mastery of these facts will make adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers so much easier.

Science In science we will be exploring how weather and climate data can be collected and analyzed. As we conclude our mini unit on Weather, we will begin a unit on Inheritance and Variation of Traits, including a look at the life cycles of insects, animals and plants. See attached parent letter for more information.

Humanities In Humanities we will be establishing routines in our new series, Benchmark Advanced. We will review author's purpose for writing and practice several writing forms. Then, we will move into our first unit. We will work on main idea, compare and contrast, and making inferences. In Social Studies, we will work on a variety of map skills and human and physical features.

Helpful Hints

* Please read and sign agenda book each night along with looking through folders and emptying out papers that can stay at home.

* Check out our Back-to-School Presentation on the website for more information about third grade.

Stay in Touch!

Please reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns!

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Third Grade Science

Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Dear Families,

Here is what your child is learning in Third Grade during the study of inheritance and variation of traits and some specific ways you can help. Look for additional newsletters for upcoming units.

Inheritance and Variation of Traits

Students will be able to:

- Identify that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all share the process of birth, growth, reproduction, and death.
- Identify and explain that plants and animals have traits that are inherited from parents and a variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.
- Identify that traits can be influenced by the environment and variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing

Key Vocabulary

Metamorphosis – change of form

Simple Metamorphosis – egg – nymph – adult

Complete Metamorphosis – egg – larva – pupa – adult

Traits – qualities or features or other things that distinguish the organism

Acquired Traits – traits that cannot be passed on genetically, acquired characteristics over time

Inherited Traits – passed on genetically, must come from parents or grandparents

Ways FAMILIES Can Help

- ★ Be attentive to the plants and animals around you.
- ★ Discuss with your parents' different traits you have inherited from them (hair color, eye color, height etc.)
- ★ Look for different ways plants and animals adapt to their environment.



THIRD GRADE MATHEMATICS – Unit 2

Dear Parents,

During Unit 2, your children will add and subtract within 1000 by applying their understanding of models for addition and subtraction. They will develop, discuss, and use efficient, accurate, and generalizable methods to compute the sums and differences of whole numbers in base ten notations, using their understanding of place value and the properties of the operations (they will need not use formal terms for these properties). Your children will work to develop written methods for recording sums and differences. They will be introduced to the concept of rounding, which provides them with another strategy to judge the reasonableness of their answers in addition and subtraction situations.

ADDITION, SUBTRACTION AND MEASUREMENT

Students need to:

- Add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms based on the following: place value, properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction
- Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100
- Solve two-step word problems. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding.
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute and measure time intervals in minutes. Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes, e.g., by representing the problem on a number line diagram.

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

- Help your child use addition or subtraction to solve real world problems (e.g. adding a bill, calculating change from a purchase...)
- Practice reading an analog clock.
- Help your child determine an end time given the start time and the duration of the event (e.g. you put something in the oven at 5:15 p.m. and it needs 32 minutes to cook, what time should you take it out of the oven).
- Help you student determine the among of time that has elapsed between the start of dinner and the end of dinner, the start of sports practice and the end of sports practice, etc.

KEY VOCABULARY

Add	Identity Property	Standard algorithm	Minutes
Addend	Invented strategies	Subtract	Standard unit
Addition	Inverse operation	Subtraction	
Associative Property	Minuend	Subtrahend	
Commutative Property	Missing Addend	Sum	
Difference	More	Tens	
Digit	Multiples of 10 and 100	Thousands	
Estimate	Number line	Minuend	
Equal	Ones	Elapsed time	
Flexible methods of computation	Operation		
Hundreds	Place value		

$$\begin{array}{r}
 248 + 345 = \\
 500 + 80 + 13 \\
 500 + 80 = 580 \\
 580 + 13 = 593
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 248 \\
 + 345 \\
 \hline
 500 \\
 80 \\
 \hline
 13 \\
 \hline
 593
 \end{array}$$

Here, two students used the *partial sums* strategy, and recorded their thinking in two different ways. Breaking apart the numbers helps make it easier to compute.

Third graders can also use the strategy *adding up in chunks*.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 216 + 149 = \\
 216 + (100 + 40 + 4 + 5) \\
 216 + 100 = 316 \\
 316 + 40 = 356 \\
 356 + 4 = 360 \\
 360 + 5 = 365
 \end{array}$$

One number is kept whole and the second number is broken into easy-to-use chunks.

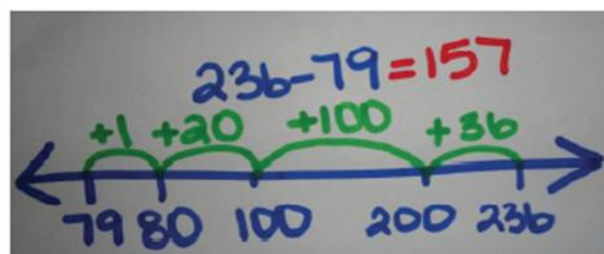
Students choose to use friendly numbers to make it easier when doing mental computation.

Students may solve a subtraction problem by *keeping a constant difference*.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 236 - 79 = \\
 (236 + 1) - (79 + 1) = \\
 237 - 80 = 157
 \end{array}$$

By adding 1 to 236 and making 237, as well as adding 1 to 79 to make 80 (*keeping the difference constant*) this student makes it easier to subtract.

$$236 - 79 =$$



$$1 + 20 + 100 + 36 = 157$$

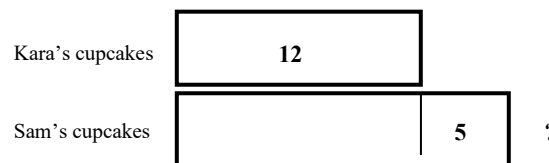
This third grader used an *open number line* and added up in chunks starting at 79 and counting up to 236 in order to subtract. Students are encouraged to use this strategy in a way that makes sense to them.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 -3 \quad +3 \\
 326 + 247 = \\
 323 + 250 = 573
 \end{array}$$

This example shows how a student could use *compensation* to solve an addition problem.

Bar Models

Sam has 5 more cupcakes than Kara. Kara has 12 cupcakes. How many cupcakes does Sam have?



This example shows how a student might use a bar model to represent a word problem.