Course Overview

Elementary School | Grade 3 | ELA - *Last Updated on September 18, 2025*

DESCRIPTION

K-12 Content Area | Mission & Philosophy Statement
• Foster a love for literacy across diverse backgrounds and abilities, ensuring equitable access to rich learning experiences equipping learners with the skills, mindset, and passion to engage actively as informed readers, writers, and communicators throughout their lives. • Cultivate communicators and critical thinkers, empowering them to inquire, analyze, and create meaningfully from a variety of texts and perspectives, preparing them for the responsibilities of active participation as a citizen in our democracy as well as in an evolving global society. • Engender collaborative and creative environments where learners innovate, elevate diverse voices and modalities to express themselves effectively and imaginatively. • Promote a culturally responsive English Language Arts education that honors the identities, cultures, and experiences of all students, integrating diverse texts and voices to promote empathy, understanding, and respect.

Course Description
The 3rd Grade English Language Arts program blends the rich, interdisciplinary learning of **Great Minds Arts and Letters** with the structured, evidence-based instruction of the **95 Percent Group Core Phonics Program**. Students continue building their literacy foundation with support from **Geodes** decodable texts and personalized practice through **Lexia Core5**. Through engaging themes such as *A Season of Change*, *The American West*, *Civil Rights and Advocates*, and *Good Eating*, students explore literature, visual arts, music, and dramatic expression. These experiences deepen comprehension, expand vocabulary, and develop students' ability to communicate ideas creatively and effectively. The **Core Phonics Program** provides daily, explicit instruction in advanced phonics skills, including: • Multisyllabic word decoding • Complex vowel teams and diphthongs • Prefixes, suffixes, and base words • R-controlled vowels and irregular spelling patterns • Continued development of fluency, spelling, and word analysis skills **Geodes** readers provide students with opportunities to apply their phonics skills in rich, meaningful texts that also build content knowledge. **Lexia Core5** offers differentiated instruction tailored to each student's learning needs, reinforcing classroom lessons and accelerating reading growth. **Key Features:**

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- Thematic, arts-integrated ELA instruction
- Daily, structured phonics lessons aligned to the science of reading
- Application of decoding skills through knowledge-building Geodes books
- Personalized, adaptive literacy support with Lexia Core5
- Emphasis on comprehension, fluency, writing, and creative expression

Outcome:
By the end of 3rd grade, students will confidently read multisyllabic words, understand increasingly complex texts, and communicate clearly through writing and discussion. This well-rounded program supports strong literacy development while encouraging curiosity, creativity, and a deeper connection to the world through language and the arts.

ATTACHMENTS

- 3rd_Grade_Scope_and_Sequence.pdf
- AL_L3_ModuleSynopsesLevel3.pdf
- Geodes_Text_List_Level_3.pdf

STANDARDS

Pennsylvania - Grade 3 - English Language Arts ELA

CC.1.1.3.D CC.1.1.3.E CC.1.2.3.A CC.1.2.3.B CC.1.2.3.C CC.1.2.3.D CC.1.2.3.E

CC.1.2.3.F CC.1.2.3.G CC.1.2.3.H CC.1.2.3.I CC.1.2.3.J CC.1.2.3.K CC.1.2.3.L

CC.1.3.3.A CC.1.3.3.B CC.1.3.3.C CC.1.3.3.D CC.1.3.3.E CC.1.3.3.F CC.1.3.3.G

CC.1.3.3.H CC.1.3.3.I CC.1.3.3.J CC.1.3.3.K CC.1.4.3.A CC.1.4.3.B CC.1.4.3.C

CC.1.4.3.D CC.1.4.3.E CC.1.4.3.G CC.1.4.3.F CC.1.4.3.H CC.1.4.3.I CC.1.4.3.J

CC.1.4.3.K CC.1.4.3.L CC.1.4.3.M CC.1.4.3.N CC.1.4.3.O CC.1.4.3.P CC.1.4.3.Q

CC.1.4.3.R CC.1.4.3.S CC.1.4.3.T CC.1.4.3.U CC.1.4.3.V CC.1.4.3.W CC.1.4.3.X

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CC.1.5.3.A | CC.1.5.3.B | CC.1.5.3.C | CC.1.5.3.D | CC.1.5.3.E | CC.1.5.3.F

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives for this course are aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and the Common Core State Standards for ELA as outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Grade 3.

ASSESSMENT TYPES

Forms of Assessment to Measure Course Objectives:

- Diagnostic Assessments
- Formative Assessments
- Summative Assessments
- Criterion-Referenced
- Norm-Referenced

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SUGGESTED METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- **Systematic and Explicit Phonics Instruction:** Direct, sequential teaching of the connections between letters and sounds, as well as the six syllable types. (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Lexia Core5/Power Up).
- **Phonemic Awareness and Word Study:** Activities targeting prefixes, suffixes, Latin roots, and Greek Combining Forms and syllable types to build strong decoding and vocabulary skills (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Lexia Core5/Power Up).
- **Decodable Text Practice:** Use of decodable text aligned to phonics instruction to apply decoding skills and build fluency through repeated and teacher lead reading instruction (95 Percent Group Core Phonics).
- **Multisensory Engagement:** Visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning experiences, including letter formation, tapping sounds, interactive digital activities, and manipulatives to reinforce phonics and language concepts (all programs).
- **Targeted Small Group and Individualized Instruction:** Instructional support driven by continuous assessment data and personalized learning platforms to meet diverse student needs (95 Percent Group Core Phonics, Lexia Core5/ Power Up).
- **Thematic, Knowledge-Building Lessons:** Integration of rich, content-focused themes to develop background knowledge, vocabulary, and comprehension (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Integrated Literacy Experiences:** Connected reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities, including writing workshops with explicit guidance on sentence structure, spelling, and expression (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Shared Reading and Read-Alouds:** Teacher modeling fluent reading to enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and engagement with texts (Great Minds Arts & Letters).
- **Close Reading and Critical Thinking:** Teaching students to analyze text meaning, language, and structure through close reading strategies (Great Minds Arts & Letters, 95 Percent Group Core Phonics).
- **Adaptive, Personalized Digital Practice:** Use of Lexia Core5's/ Power Up interactive, data-driven platform for individualized phonics and literacy skill reinforcement, with motivational supports to keep students engaged.

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RESOURCES

District Approved Program Resources	District Approved Supplemental Resources	District Approved Technology Resources
• Great Minds PBC. (2025). *Arts & Letters: Third Grade English language arts curriculum*. • 95 Percent Group LLC. (2022). *95 Phonics Core Program™, Fifth Grade*. 95 Percent Group LLC.	• Great Minds PBC. (2025). *Inside Geodes® Level 3* [Teacher guide]. Great Minds PBC. • Great Minds PBC. (2025). *My Geodes® Level 3* [Print and digital reader]. Great Minds PBC.	Lexia Learning Systems, LLC. (2025, April 16). *Lexia Core5 Reading* (Version 5.3.5) [Educational software]. Lexia Learning Systems.