



Grade Level Summary: 3rd Grade

Art

Students learn various techniques, skills, and artistic applications by studying historic content and culture through the eyes and hands of an artist. Studies overlap and are integrated with other grade-level subjects and classes.

Language Arts

Third grade uses the Wonders program and additional supplemental resources for Language Arts. Students learn new comprehension skills to become more advanced and confident readers. Students learn and apply important skills to numerous genres. Skills learned include sequencing as well as identifying main ideas and details, theme, cause and effect, problem and solution. Students work on individualized programs, such as IXL, as well as in small, differentiated learning groups to gain a foundation in these skills. Students practice and review grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension skills every week. In writing, students informally and formally create friendly letters, personal narratives, persuasive, opinion, informative, research-based writing pieces, and will write to sources.

Library

In third grade, students are engaged in library activities that provide opportunities for them to learn to access, evaluate, use, and integrate information literacy skills into all areas of learning. Students apply knowledge of the organization of libraries, print materials, digital media, and other sources. Students recognize the need for information and identify key words within questions; formulate appropriate questions; identify a problem that needs information by asking how, what, where, when, or why questions; and identify and locate a variety of resources online and in other formats by using effective search strategies.

Mathematics

Third grade uses the enVision Math curriculum and other supplemental resources to teach students math concepts. Using the spiral curriculum program, students focus on understanding and applying multiplication and division strategies, area and perimeter, representing and interpreting data, fractions as numbers, comparing fractions, and two-dimensional shapes. Additional online programs, such as IXL and Reflex Math, are used to practice and differentiate topics previously mentioned, as well as assess student fluency.

Music

Students continue the exploration of their voices, audiation (inner hearing), and more complex rhythm patterns through notation, rhythmic speech, listening maps, and percussion instruments. They are introduced to sheet music and sight singing. Third-grade students are also introduced to more complex music featuring partner songs, foreign languages, and simple two-part harmonies. They provide music for ECE chapels and continue to use Orff instruments to accompany themselves while singing. Lastly, they continue to learn to sing with expression and perform in front of an audience.

Physical Education

In Physical Education, students experience the joy of movement while building skills that reflect our school's core values. Meeting four times each week, classes emphasize teamwork, leadership, and personal growth. Every student has the chance to step into a leadership role, practicing what it means to lead by example, follow directions, and support peers as positive teammates. Through a variety of activities, students not only develop new skills but also gain confidence while developing the muscles of diligence and resilience. Additionally, continuing at the third grade level, there is an advanced progression of complexity in gameplay, engaging the students' strategic mindset and further development of motor skills.

Science

Third-grade students participate in a program called Project Lead the Way. The goal of the science curriculum is to engage young minds in science, technology, engineering, and math so that they will build confidence, explore interests, and set themselves up for success in middle school, high school, and beyond. The science lessons tap into the students' natural curiosity and enthusiasm and empower them to become problem solvers. Students use structured approaches, like the engineering design process, and employ critical thinking. The units of study explore life, physical, and earth sciences. Students discover the design process and how engineers influence their lives. Units in third grade focus on life cycles and survival, variation of traits, environmental changes in weather, stability and motion, flight and forces. The students practice applying knowledge to solve problems in the classroom and beyond.

Social Emotional Learning

The Social Emotional Learning program is designed to increase children's self-awareness and to improve problem solving. Using the PATHS curriculum, instruction will focus on helping children with emotional literacy, improving self-esteem, social awareness (empathy), and fostering responsible decision making. Through reflection, application, and collaboration, students will become more mindful and have the tools they need to overcome obstacles in and outside of school.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Weekly program allows students to learn about the state of California. They learn about California's geological regions, indigenous peoples, explorers, and settlers. Students also learn about their community and the rights and responsibilities that make them useful citizens.

Spanish

Students master calendar terms and daily greetings in third-grade Spanish class. They participate in and understand dialogues utilizing grade-level vocabulary. Students study the vocabulary for foods, classroom items, family, colors, parts of the body, and home. Students develop an elementary understanding of specific vocabulary for holidays and some customs of Hispanic cultures. Students get the chance to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing at a beginner level.

Technology

Using their smeds.com Google account (a safe and secure account where only digital interaction can occur among peers and faculty), students will explore what Google Docs and Google Slides have to offer. They will unleash their digital creativity and voice as they compose documents and presentations that reinforce and reflect their learning of various features through application. Other projects within the core subjects will arise during the year, and students will learn the appropriate digital tools for the facilitation of the project. Students will continue to learn how to search appropriately and effectively to yield results that are both age-appropriate and desired. Results for all search queries are filtered by our SMEDS-domain restrictions and monitored by GoGuardian. Lastly, students will be expected to complete 30 minutes of typing homework every week. Their time will be logged and then signed on their typing sheet. The sheet is due every Tuesday at the beginning of Technology.