

Course Title:	Grade 3 Art
Grade(s):	Grade 3

Course Description

Students in Grade 3 take a major leap in their artistic development as they begin exploring more abstract concepts within the artistic process. They examine how art influences the world around them and how decision-making in the creative process shapes the work they produce. Students continue to strengthen their artistic vocabulary and deepen their understanding through critical thinking, reflection, and meaningful discussions about art.

Grade 3 students should be able to identify and use the seven basic elements of art in their work:

- Line: Using varied line types (vertical, horizontal, curved) to create movement or 3D effects.
- Shape: Differentiating between geometric and organic shapes.
- Color: Understanding tints (color + white), shades (color + black), and temperature (warm vs. cool).
- Value: Learning shading techniques to add depth and make objects look three-dimensional.
- Form: Exploring 3D shapes like cylinders and ellipses.
- Texture: Practicing visual texture through drawing and collage techniques.
- Space: Using foreground, middle ground, and background to create depth in landscapes.

Key Skills & Concepts

At this level, curriculum goals often move beyond basic drawing toward more intentional:

- Perspective & Depth: Introduction to vanishing points and one-point perspective.
- Storytelling: Using art to communicate personal feelings, hopes, and memories.
- Observation: Practicing observational drawing and shading to make subjects appear realistic.
- Cross-Curricular Art: Integrating art with other subjects, such as illustrating poetry or science projects.

Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Imaginative Line Drawings	Students examine lines in nature as well as how lines can be used to make shapes and space. Students explore the different qualities of lines (weight, size, shapes) as well as how directional lines can control a composition. Continued exploration of value, texture, and form are also explored.	Approx. 2 weeks
Unit 2: Color Collage (Leaf/Nature Paintings)	Students examine color as an element in the natural world. Students expand on the simple color wheel and color choices from 2nd grade to become more selective in the color process. Artists such as Mondrian are explored, and use of primary colors are used to emphasize individual artwork.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 3: Winter Landscape/Bird Paintings	Students examine the use of organic and geometric shapes in a unique design. The combination of hard edge and soft edge shapes are explored as well as the use of value and texture in the landscape and color and shape in the bird paintings. Color continues to be explored as students create unique color choices for their birds.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 4: Pattern Collages (Creature/Robot)	Students examine more advanced ideas of pattern in artwork as they create unique creatures or robots in a collage pattern project. Choices of shapes, colors, and lines help define artistic expression and deepen students' understanding of how these elements contribute to the unique art-making process.	Approx. 3 weeks
Unit 5: Final Clay Sculptures	Students examine three-dimensional form and simple ceramic handbuilding processes such as Pinch and additive aspects of sculptural creation. Students explore ideas such as Actual Texture as well as objects in three-dimensional space. Students create unique sculptures around ideas they have explored.	Approx. 4 weeks