THIRD GRADE
PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

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DEAR PRESCHOOL AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS,

At the heart of the Preschool and Lower School educational philosophy lies a curriculum designed as a living, breathing framework—one that is both a reflection of our school's mission and a catalyst for student growth. This balance among disciplines is not incidental; it is a deliberate alignment intended to shape well-rounded girls who are prepared for the complexities of the world.

The academic experience is defined by a commitment to challenging experiences that inspire intellectual curiosity, problem solving, and a global mindset. We believe that true intellectual development occurs when students are challenged to think critically and engage with increasingly complex concepts.

The ***Progression of Learning*** is intended to provide families with an overview of our programs including the skills and concepts for the coming school year and a few hallmarks of the grade level. We hope this is a helpful tool in communicating and understanding the philosophy of our program and the expectations for the grade level.

Sincerely,

Shara Hammet
Preschool and Lower School Division Head

PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LITERACY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Literacy and written language instruction focus on content-rich, academically rigorous coursework aligned with evidence-based practices for reading comprehension. By implementing the Wit & Wisdom program by Great Minds, the PSLS curriculum builds content knowledge and literacy skills simultaneously. Rather than teaching reading skills in isolation, this research-based, module-driven approach immerses students in complex texts, fine art, and interdisciplinary science and social studies topics to foster deep reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Key Features and Structure:

- Knowledge-Building Modules: Students gain deep background knowledge through four thematic modules.
- High-Quality Core Texts and Materials: Curriculum is anchored by rich, engaging, and award-winning literature, historical nonfiction, and fine art.
- Inquiry-Driven Framework: Lessons are structured around essential, focusing questions and follow a consistent "Wonder, Organize, Reveal, Distill, Know" progression.
- Integrated Literacy Approach: Reading, writing, and language arts are woven into a cohesive theme. This includes "Deep Dives" for vocabulary, syntax, and grammar, and aligned decodable reading practice.
- Academic Rigor and Complexity: The program provides highly demanding, quality instruction that fosters academic conversations, robust vocabulary development, and strong public speaking skills.





MATHEMATICS

Math curriculum builds deep conceptual understanding, critical thinking, and mathematical rigor from the start using the Singapore Math Methodology (via Dimension and Math in Focus). Prioritizing true mastery over rote memorization, the curriculum uses a deliberate sequence from Pre-K through Fourth Grade so students can apply foundational knowledge to complex problems.

Our approach relies on three core pillars:

- The CPA Progression: Students transition from hands-on, concrete materials (e.g., connecting cubes) to pictorial representations (e.g., ten-frames) before mastering abstract mathematical symbols.
- The Problem-Solving Framework: A holistic approach balancing concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and positive attitudes.
- Mathematical Habits: Woven into daily activities, students learn to persevere, justify arguments, use tools strategically, identify patterns, and communicate with precise mathematical language.

Ultimately, we don't just teach calculation—we build the confidence, reasoning, and creativity needed to become lifelong problem solvers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program is an integrative approach that incorporates civics, economics, geography, and history with designated social studies time allotted each week across all grade levels. Aligned with the mission and *Goals and Criteria* of the school, through curriculum and programs, students form the foundational skills that prepare them to participate respectfully and intelligently in society.

Hallmarks of the program include:

- Meaningful, tangible, and engaging learning opportunities.
- Strong foundation for inquiry using research, debates, discussions, and projects of all varieties.
- Access to multiple resources-including, but not limited to, books, images, speakers, and field trips.
- Students as digital citizens and global citizens.
- Informational, visual, cultural, and economic literacy.
- Partnerships and collaboration among faculty, enrichment teachers, and community organizations and resources.

OVERVIEW OF LITERACY CONCEPTS AND SKILLS INTRODUCED IN THIRD GRADE

Over the course of the year, Third Grade students will be introduced to many literacy and written language concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Identify parts of words (syllable, basewords, suffixes).
- Read and spell phonetically regular words, words with suffixes, including most common Latin suffixes, contractions, targeted high frequency words.
- Identify and know the meaning of most common Latin suffixes.
- Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.
- Apply spelling rules for adding suffixes to basewords that change.
- Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root.
- Know meaning of targeted vocabulary words (Word of the Day) and different inflected forms of words when a known affix is added (i.e. confuse, confusing).
- Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs as well as regular verbs.
- Acquire and accurately use grade level conversational and general academic words.
- Identify real life connections between words and their use.
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing and reading.
- Apply dictionary skills and consult reference material to check and correct spelling and to determine and/or clarify precise meaning.
- Set reading goals.
- Read and confer with a partner.
- Check for comprehension.
- Follow text clues including envisioning and assembling facts.
- Make predictions.
- Retell stories.
- Use strategies to read hard words and textual clues to find out the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- Determine the author's purpose.
- Preview and retell nonfiction text, setting goals and plans to read nonfiction, summarizing narrative nonfiction.
- Distinguish between important/main ideas and supporting details, and opinion.
- Read biographies through different lenses.
- Seek underlying ideas in true stories.
- Identify when a text is hybrid nonfiction.
- Notice how characters talk and act and form observations of characters.
- Notice patterns to build theories about a character and apply theories about characters to predict.
- Explore story, character mountains, problems, and solutions.
- Determine the secondary characters' roles.
- Visualize the roles characters play and how characters resolve a problem..
- Learn lessons from the characters by comparing characters and the problems they face.
- Analyze the author's craft.
- Orient to a text set, apply cross text synthesis, and understand text-specific vocabulary.
- Develop ideas about nonfiction.
- Read with volume and fluency.

OVERVIEW OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

Over the course of the year, Third Grade students will be introduced to many written language concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Fiction & Nonfiction Narrative, Informational, and Persuasive Writing

- Notice patterns to build big ideas, pursue questions, and develop evidence-based theories.
- Apply knowledge through research.
- Find solutions to a real-world problem.
- Use a storyteller voice.
- Write several drafts, choose a draft and revise it.
- Use dialogue in a story.
- Organize information according to topic.
- Study mentor text to evaluate and decide on a topic.
- Research facts to ensure accuracy.
- Create introduction and sub topics.
- Use text features to make it easier for readers to learn about topics.
- Practice persuasion.
- Gather ideas and information for an opinion writing piece.
- Consider the audience of the piece.
- Organize draft into paragraphs.
- Revise introductions and conclusions.

OVERVIEW OF MATH CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

During Third Grade, students will be introduced to:

- Count and represent numbers to 10,000.
- Compare and order numbers using a number line.
- Add and subtract within 10,000 with and without regrouping.
- Solve two-step, real-world problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Use known multiplication facts to find other multiplication facts.
- Multiply and divide using models.
- Multiply with and without regrouping.
- Solve real-world problems involving multiplication and division using bar models.
- Understand unit fractions, fractions as part of a whole, fractions as part of a set, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions.
- Measure mass, volume, and capacity.
- Find area using square units, square centimeters, and square meters.
- Find the area and perimeter of a figure and the area of a rectangle using multiplication.
- Identify and name points, lines, line segments, angles, perpendicular lines, parallel lines, open and closed figures, polygons, and quadrilaterals.

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL STUDIES CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

In Third Grade, students broaden their horizons from local and regional communities to explore national and global systems. Building on their prior knowledge, they deeply investigate how physical geography, historical movements, economic choices, and civic structures influence human behavior and shape the modern world. Through critical thinking and analysis, students transition from observing their immediate surroundings to understanding their role as active citizens in a diverse, global society.

Geography

- Advanced World Geography: Developing a foundational understanding of global geography and how different regions connect.
- National Mapping and Location: Learning how to locate and identify specific places, landmarks, and regions within the United States.
- Human-Environment Interaction: Examining the direct relationship between geographic features and the way human societies live and adapt.
- Indigenous Cultures and Environments: Investigating how Native American tribes interacted with, respected, and utilized their natural surroundings.

History

- National Settlement and Growth: Exploring the historical movement of people settling in and developing the United States.
- Cultural Diversity: Recognizing and celebrating the diverse backgrounds, traditions, and peoples that shape American identity.
- Community Improvement: Analyzing historical and ongoing efforts to improve local communities and civic spaces.
- Global Perspectives: Investigating diverse cultures, traditions, and histories from around the world.

Economics

- Economic Foundations: Developing a basic understanding of how an economy functions and how resources are managed.
- Free Market Choices: Exploring how consumers and producers make decisions within a free market system.
- Financial Literacy: Introducing responsible money management, including smart spending, saving, and budgeting.
- Global Trade Networks: Examining the economic interdependence between the United States and the global marketplace.

Civics

- Public Services and Infrastructure: Understanding how governments provide essential services to keep communities safe and functional.
- American Government Structures: Exploring the organization, roles, and branches of government within the United States.
- Citizenship and Civic Participation: Defining the rights, responsibilities, and active roles of a citizen in a democratic society.
- Global Citizenship: Discovering how individuals and nations can work together to make a positive difference in the world.

THE ENRICHMENT HUB

The Enrichment Hub on the ASH PS/LS parent portal provides an overview of the skills and concepts taught in our enrichment courses including religion, art, music, science, technology, library, physical education, innovation lab, and French.

Organized by grade level, the Hub also features virtual tours of our enrichment classrooms.

To View The Enrichment Hub, Scan Below:

SCAN ME

Highlights from Third Grade*

We Are All In This Together Retreat • Third and Fourth Grade Clubs • Women of Character Play • Global Education Unit • Mater Campus Innovation Lab • Palette Art Show Playgroup • Intramurals

**Subject to change*

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

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