



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Third Grade Curriculum Guide

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS · AMPLIFY CKLA
- MATHEMATICS · ENVISION
- SCIENCE · SAVVAS ELEVATESCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES · MCGRAW HILL IMPACT
- ELECTIVES

About this guide: This document describes the instructional programs, standards, pacing, and expectations for all Third Grade students at Southfield Public Schools. It is intended to support teachers, families, and administrators in understanding what students learn and why.

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SECTION 1

Our Instructional Philosophy

Southfield Public Schools provides rigorous, joyful, and equitable instruction for every student. In Third Grade, students transition from learning to read toward reading to learn, applying strong foundational skills to tackle longer, more complex texts while continuing to think critically and investigate across disciplines.

ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL READ

We use the Science of Reading to deliver explicit, systematic literacy instruction to every child. Amplify CKLA (Grades K–5) moves into an integrated model in Third Grade, weaving foundational skills directly into rich, complex texts.

CURIOSITY DRIVES SCIENCE LEARNING

Students learn by investigating real phenomena. SAVVAS elevateScience anchors every unit in a question worth investigating and builds authentic scientific thinking from day one.

KNOWLEDGE FUELS COMPREHENSION

Decoding alone is not enough. Students who build rich background knowledge across history, science, geography, and literature become stronger readers over time. Our programs deliberately build this foundation at every grade level.

SECTION 2

English Language Arts

• Amplify CKLA — Third Edition • Grades K–5

Southfield Public Schools has adopted *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Third Edition* as the core ELA instructional program for *Grades K–5*. CKLA is among the nation's highest-rated literacy curricula for alignment to the Science of Reading and the Common Core State Standards.

INTEGRATED INSTRUCTION • DAILY

Beginning in Third Grade, CKLA shifts from two separate K–2 strands (Skills and Knowledge) into one integrated daily lesson. Foundational skills, grammar, vocabulary, and morphology are woven directly into rich, content-based reading and writing — supporting a smooth transition toward more complex, independent reading.

Grade 3 ELA Learning Priorities

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS (RF.3)

- Decode multisyllable words using knowledge of syllabication patterns
- Decode words with common Latin suffixes
- Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words
- Use combined knowledge of letter-sound correspondences and word analysis to decode unfamiliar words
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension (RF.3.4)

LANGUAGE (L.3)

- Use and explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns
- Form and use the simple verb tenses (past, present, future)
- Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions
- Use commas in addresses and for direct address

READING LITERATURE & INFORMATIONAL (RL.3, RI.3)

- Determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details
- Describe characters and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events
- Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or characters
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how key details support it
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas, or steps in a procedure
- Use text features and search tools to locate information efficiently
- Compare and contrast the most important points in two texts on the same topic

WRITING (W.3)

- Write opinion pieces, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- Write informative/explanatory texts that introduce a topic and group related information
- Write narratives using dialogue, description, and a clear event sequence
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic

Third Grade Knowledge Domains

Domain	Content Focus	Writing Connection
D1. Classic Tales & Fables	International classic tales, including <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> , <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> , and Arabian Nights stories; fables and their morals	Compare a classic tale to a modern story; write an original fable with a moral
D2. Early Asian Civilizations	Early civilizations of China, Japan, and the Indus Valley; inventions, dynasties, and lasting contributions	Informative writing: an invention or contribution from an early Asian civilization
D3. Astronomy: Our Solar System and Beyond	The sun, planets, moons, and stars; the Big Bang theory; key astronomers and space exploration milestones	Research writing: a planet or space mission; astronomy lab notes
D4. Light and Sound	Properties of light and sound waves; reflection, refraction, and how we see and hear	Informative writing explaining a light or sound phenomenon
D5. Classifying Living Things	How scientists classify animals by characteristics; vertebrates and invertebrates	Informative writing: a vertebrate or invertebrate research piece
D6. The Human Body: Body Systems	Skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems; the five senses, with focus on sight and hearing	Informative essay on a human body system
D7. Early American Civilizations	Native American peoples and cultures across North America before European contact	Informative writing: a Native American culture region
D8. Greek Myths Revisited & Greek Drama	Continued exploration of mythology and early Greek civilization and storytelling traditions	Write a modern myth; compare myths across cultures
D9. Colonial America	The thirteen colonies; daily colonial life; trade and early settlement patterns	Narrative writing: a day in the life of a colonial child
D10. Invention and Innovation	American inventors and inventions, including the telephone; how new technology changes daily life	Informative essay: an inventor and their invention; newspaper-style writing

SECTION 3

The Science of Reading in Practice

The *Science of Reading* refers to decades of research from cognitive science, linguistics, and education defining how the brain learns to read. Amplify CKLA (K–5) is built on this research, providing structured literacy instruction that works for all learners.

1 Phonological Awareness Hear, blend, and segment sounds in spoken words	2 Phonics & Decoding Map sounds to spellings systematically	3 Fluency Read with accuracy, rate, and expression	4 Vocabulary Build word knowledge through wide reading and discussion	5 Comprehension Apply strategies to understand complex texts
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STRUCTURED LITERACY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

In Third Grade, CKLA lessons integrate a daily routine that moves between foundational skills review, vocabulary instruction, close reading of complex texts, and writing — all anchored in the same content. This predictable structure supports all learners, including students with dyslexia or language differences. End-of-unit assessments guide differentiation and intervention at all grade levels K–5.

SECTION 5

Mathematics

• enVision Mathematics • Grades K–5

Southfield uses *enVision Mathematics* for Grades K–5. In Third Grade, the program's major focus is multiplication and division: students build fluency with single-digit products and quotients, connect these operations to area and equal-sized groups, and develop their first formal understanding of fractions as numbers. Each lesson opens with a problem-based *Solve & Share* task that builds conceptual understanding.

OPERATIONS & ALGEBRAIC THINKING (3.OA)

- Interpret products and quotients of whole numbers (equal groups, arrays)
- Fluently multiply and divide within 100, using strategies and known facts
- Solve two-step word problems using the four operations
- Identify arithmetic patterns and explain them using properties of operations

NUMBER & OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN (3.NBT)

- Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100
- Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using strategies and algorithms
- Multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10

NUMBER & OPERATIONS — FRACTIONS (3.NF)

- Understand a fraction as a number on the number line
- Understand equivalence of fractions in

MEASUREMENT & DATA (3.MD)

- Tell and write time to the nearest minute; solve elapsed-time problems
- Measure and estimate liquid volumes and

special cases

- Compare two fractions with the same numerator or denominator

masses of objects

- Find the area of a rectangle and relate area to multiplication and addition
- Solve perimeter problems for polygons
- Represent and interpret data on scaled picture and bar graphs

GEOMETRY (3.G)

- Understand that shapes in different categories may share attributes
- Categorize quadrilaterals based on their properties
- Partition shapes into parts with equal areas; express as a unit fraction

Quarterly Pacing Overview

	Months	Topic Focus
Quarter 1	September – October	Understand multiplication and division of whole numbers; multiplication facts using patterns and properties (3, 4, 6, 7, 8); use multiplication to divide
Quarter 2	November – January	Strategies to solve multiplication and division facts within 100; connect area to multiplication and addition; represent, analyze, and interpret data; use strategies and properties to add and subtract within 1000
Quarter 3	January – March	Fluently add and subtract within 1000; strategies for multiplying by multiples of 10; solve two-step problems with whole numbers; understand fractions as numbers
Quarter 4	April – June	Fraction equivalence and comparison; solve time, liquid volume, and mass problems; describe, analyze, and classify two-dimensional shapes; solve perimeter problems

SECTION 6

Science

- SAVVAS elevateScience • Grades K–5

Southfield has adopted SAVVAS *elevateScience* for Grades K–5. In Third Grade, students investigate increasingly complex phenomena and develop stronger science and engineering practices. All units are aligned to the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

The key science concepts students need to know

Science & Engineering Practices

How scientists investigate and engineers design

Crosscutting Concepts

Ideas that apply across all science disciplines

Third Grade Science Units

Unit & Focus	Phenomenon & Key Questions	Core Concepts
Unit 1: Weather and Climate	How can we predict the weather? What is the difference between weather and climate?	Weather is the condition of the atmosphere at a place and time; climate is the typical weather pattern over many years; data and graphs reveal patterns
Unit 2: Forces and Interactions	How do pushes and pulls change the way objects move?	Balanced and unbalanced forces; magnetic forces can act without contact; patterns in motion can be used to predict future motion
Unit 3: Life Cycles and Traits	Why do organisms vary even within the same species?	Organisms have predictable life cycles; inherited traits and environment both shape how organisms look and behave
Unit 4: Adaptations and Environments	How do organisms' traits help them survive in their environment?	Particular traits can increase an organism's chance of survival; environmental changes can affect survival
Unit 5: Fossils and Changing Environments	What can fossils tell us about environments of the past?	Fossils provide evidence of organisms and environments that existed long ago; environments change over time
Unit 6: Engineering Design	How do engineers solve real-world problems?	Engineers define problems, generate possible solutions, and test and improve designs using evidence

NGSS STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Third Grade science units are aligned to 3-ESS2 (Weather and Climate), 3-PS2 (Forces and Interactions), 3-LS1, 3-LS3, and 3-LS4 (Life Cycles, Traits, and Adaptations), and 3-5-ETS1 (Engineering Design).

SECTION 7

Social Studies

● McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies • Grades K–5

Southfield uses *McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies* for Grades K–5. In Third Grade, students narrow their focus from communities in general to the state of Michigan specifically. IMPACT uses an inquiry-based approach anchored in compelling questions, primary sources, and evidence-based discussion.

GRADE THREE FOCUS OF STUDY — DISCOVERING MICHIGAN

In Grade Three, students learn about their state and local communities. As historians, they research the history of their school and community and sequence important historical events on a timeline. Students explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics and government, and economics through the context of Michigan studies.

Third Grade Social Studies — Units

Unit	Focus
Unit 1	Discovering Michigan — location, regions, and physical geography of our state
Unit 2	Early Michigan History — Native peoples of Michigan and early statehood
Unit 3	Michigan's Government — structure and function of state government; rights and responsibilities of citizenship
Unit 4	Michigan's Economy — how Michigan's location and natural resources shape its economic development
Unit 5	Communities Then and Now — how our local community has changed over time, using primary sources and artifacts
Unit 6	Civic Participation — investigating a public issue in Michigan and developing a plan to inform or act

INQUIRY PROCESS (C3 FRAMEWORK)

- Construct compelling questions
- Gather and evaluate sources
- Develop claims with evidence
- Communicate and take action

KEY STANDARDS (MICHIGAN GLCE)

All IMPACT units are aligned to Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies, with a Third Grade focus on Michigan history, geography, civics, and economics.

SECTION 8

Electives

Elective offerings at Southfield Public Schools depend on the individual school building. Third Grade students may have access to one or more of the following enrichment and specialty areas. Please contact your child's school directly for the specific elective schedule at your building.

WORLD LANGUAGE — SPANISH

Continued conversational vocabulary and listening and speaking skills, with growing emphasis on simple reading and writing in Spanish. Students explore Latin American cultures through songs, games, and stories.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Continued gross and fine motor skill development, teamwork, and strategy in games. Students build habits of physical wellness aligned to Michigan Health Education Standards.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — DANCE

Creative movement, rhythmic awareness, and expressive dance forms, with growing attention to choreography and group composition.

TECHNOLOGY

Growing digital literacy including typing fluency, responsible technology use, and introductory coding concepts, aligned with ISTE Standards for Students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — MUSIC

Continued music literacy including rhythm, melody, and dynamics, with introduction to reading simple notation, aligned to Michigan Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Elective schedules are determined at the building level and are subject to change. Contact your school's main office for the most current information about elective offerings and scheduling for your child.

SECTION 9

Social-Emotional Learning

Southfield Public Schools integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout the school day. Third Grade students develop competencies aligned to the *CASEL framework*: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL is embedded in daily routines, morning meetings, and subject-area instruction.

THIRD GRADE SEL FOCUS AREAS

- Recognizing and naming a wider range of emotions in self and others
- Strengthening collaboration skills: contributing ideas, compromising, and resolving peer conflict independently
- Practicing perspective-taking across diverse experiences and cultures
- Building a growth mindset around academic challenges, especially in math and reading
- Taking on greater responsibility for personal decisions and classroom community

INTEGRATION ACROSS SUBJECTS

CKLA Knowledge domains — including early civilizations, astronomy, and colonial life — provide rich opportunities to explore themes of perseverance, curiosity, and community responsibility. Teachers intentionally connect SEL competencies to literature and content across the Third Grade year.

SECTION 10

Assessment & Reporting

Southfield Public Schools uses multiple forms of assessment to monitor student progress and guide instruction. Assessment data informs differentiation, intervention decisions, and communication with families.

Assessment Type	Program/Tool	Frequency	Purpose
ELA Skills Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each unit	Monitor foundational skills mastery; identify students needing support or enrichment
ELA Knowledge Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each domain	Assess vocabulary and comprehension; inform re-teaching decisions
Math Unit Assessments	enVision	End of each topic/unit	Measure mastery of CCSS-M standards; guide grouping and intervention
Science Performance Tasks	SAVVAS elevateScience	End of each unit	Evaluate NGSS science and engineering practices through authentic tasks
Social Studies Assessments	McGraw Hill IMPACT	End of each unit	Check understanding of Michigan history, geography, civics, and economics concepts
Progress Reports	Southfield SIS	4 times/year (quarterly)	Communicate student performance across all subject areas to families
Reading Fluency Check	CKLA / Teacher observation	Ongoing	Monitor reading accuracy, rate, and expression; flag for early intervention
State Assessments	Michigan M-STEP	Spring	Measure grade-level proficiency in ELA and mathematics; first state-tested grade

EARLY LITERACY SCREENING

In alignment with Michigan's Read by Third Grade Law, Southfield administers early literacy screeners to all students in Grades K–3 to identify students at risk for reading difficulties. Third Grade is the final screening year under this law, and students identified as needing support receive targeted intervention through our tiered support system.

SECTION 11

Family Partnership

Families are essential partners in student success. Here are meaningful ways to support your Third Grader at home:

SUPPORTING ELA (CKLA) AT HOME

- Read together daily — ask your Third Grader to read aloud from school books
- Discuss story characters and events:

SUPPORTING SCIENCE AT HOME

- Look up at the night sky together — *“Which planets can we see tonight?”*
- Track the weather for a week and talk

"Why do you think the character did that?"

- Connect Knowledge topics to real life: talk about astronomy, early civilizations, or inventions
- Visit amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-ckla for family resources

SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS AT HOME

- Practice multiplication and division facts through games and daily routines
- Look for area and perimeter around the house — measure a room or a rug
- Practice telling time to the nearest minute on an analog clock

about patterns you notice

- Talk about animal traits: why do some animals have certain features?

STAYING CONNECTED

- Review quarterly progress reports and reach out with questions
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in fall and spring
- Contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or want to celebrate successes

CURRICULUM CONTACTS

For questions about Third Grade curriculum, instructional programs, or assessment, please contact the *Southfield Public Schools Office of Curriculum & Instruction*. Your child's classroom teacher is always your first point of contact for questions about your child's specific progress and learning.



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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