

PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE TO GRADE

3



EVERY DAY
COUNTS



WELCOME TO THIRD GRADE

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The Canon-McMillan School District believes in providing a well-rounded education that is strong in core academics: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students are provided with engaging experiences in the areas of Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Character Education.

The Third Grade Curriculum Guide provides a snapshot of the learning experiences students will engage in during the school year. To view each content area's curriculum, please visit the [Curriculum and Instruction](#) page on the District website.

In the core content areas, instruction is teacher-led and includes modeling, guided practice, and frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding. High-quality print materials; including student workbooks, readers, and journals are an essential component of daily instruction. Research shows that students learn best when they engage with printed materials. Using print materials leads to greater focus, deeper understanding, and stronger retention. In return, students are able to apply what they have learned with confidence and independence.

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to teach, to challenge, to motivate and to support all students to maximize their full individual potential.



CANON-McMILLAN
SCHOOL DISTRICT EST. 1954

BIG MACS
BIG
POSSIBILITIES



In third grade, students transition from learning to read to reading to learn using Amplify CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts), a research-based structured reading curriculum that focuses on knowledge building, vocabulary development, spelling and writing. Through engaging, knowledge-rich lessons that integrate literacy with topics in history, science, literature, and the arts, students develop a deeper understanding of the world around. The thematic units foster collaborative discussions and a variety of hands-on learning opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding.

AMPLIFY CKLA GRADE 3 UNITS

Classic Tales: The Wind in the Willows: Students are introduced to the characters from the Wind in the Willows while learning how authors develop plot, setting, and character traits.

Animal Classification: Students investigate how scientists classify animals based on their characteristics and adaptations.

The Human Body: Systems and Senses: Students discover how the body's major systems work together to keep us healthy and functioning.

Ancient Roman Civilization: Students explore the history, culture, government, mythology, and lasting achievements of Ancient Rome.

Light and Sound: Students investigate how light and sound travel and interact with the world around them through engaging scientific texts.

The Viking Age: Students learn about Viking explorers, daily life, traditions, and contributions to history.

Astronomy: Our Solar System and Beyond: Students explore the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the history of space exploration through engaging informational texts.

Native Americans: Regions and Cultures: Students examine the diverse cultures, traditions, and ways of life of Native American groups across North America.

Early Explorations of North America: Students investigate the motivations, journeys, and accomplishments of early European explorers.

GRADE 3 ELA QUICK FACTS

- ✓ 120 minutes of instruction daily
- ✓ Instruction is delivered in a structured, systematic approach that includes modeling and guided practice
- ✓ Units are intentionally sequenced to build students' knowledge in history, science, and the arts
- ✓ DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) given beginning- middle-, and end- of year to monitor students' reading development.



Students create a diagram of the human skeletal system to apply and demonstrate their knowledge of the human body.



Learn more about each unit by viewing the [Third Grade Amplify CKLA Curriculum Map](#).



MATHEMATICS

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Third grade enVision+ Mathematics places a strong emphasis on building multiplication and division fluency, developing fraction concepts, and strengthening students' ability to reason, justify, and communicate their mathematical ideas. Students continue to strengthen their addition and subtraction fluency skills. They also explore fractions, measurement, and geometry through lessons that encourage them to solve problems, think critically, and explain their reasoning. Students learn to make connections between mathematical ideas and apply what they have learned in a variety of situations.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Using the "**I Do, We Do, You Do**" approach, teachers provide clear, direct instruction by modeling and explaining new concepts ("I Do"), guide students through supported practice ("We Do"), and then give students opportunities to apply their learning independently ("You Do").

This research-based approach ensures students receive the instruction, practice, and feedback needed to build mastery and become confident, independent learners.



I DO:
Teacher-Led
Modeling

WE DO:
Guided
Practice

YOU DO:
Independent
Practice



Visual representations



Worked examples to reduce
cognitive load



Frequent opportunities to practice
math skills

ENVISION GRADE 3 TOPICS

TOPICS 1–5: Students develop fluency with multiplication and division by using a variety of strategies to solve problems involving equal groups and basic facts.

TOPICS 6–8: Students strengthen their addition and subtraction skills within 1,000 by solving real-world problems and selecting efficient strategies to find solutions.

TOPICS 9–10: Students build a deeper understanding of fractions by representing, comparing, ordering, and identifying equivalent fractions using a variety of models.

TOPIC 11: Students explore customary and metric units of measurement and apply measurement concepts to solve real-world problems.

TOPIC 12: Students investigate the attributes of quadrilaterals, compare different types of shapes, and develop an understanding of area and perimeter through hands-on problem solving.

GRADE 3 MATH FACTS

- ☒ 80 minutes of instruction daily
- ☒ Fluency practice with basic facts and computation
- ☒ Hands-on activities with math manipulatives
- ☒ Topics are sequenced to support mathematics progressions that connect new content to prior knowledge.



Learn more about each topic by visiting the [Third Grade enVision+ Resource Page](#) for families.



In third grade, students deepen their understanding of life, physical, and Earth sciences through the Amplify Science curriculum. Students are encouraged to think and work like scientists and engineers as they ask questions, investigate problems, analyze evidence, and communicate their ideas. Throughout the year, students investigate topics such as forces and motion, inherited traits, ecosystems, weather and climate patterns, the properties of matter, and Earth's systems to better understand the world around them.

AMPLIFY SCIENCE GRADE 3

Balancing Forces: Students act as physicist engineers to investigate how a floating train works. They explore magnetic forces, gravity, and balanced/unbalanced forces.

Inheritance and Traits: Students dive into life sciences to study how living things inherit specific traits, why variation occurs within species, and how those differences impact overall survival.

Environments and Survival: Students step into the role of biomimicry engineers. They look closely at organism traits, adaptations, and how physical structures help things survive in specific environments.

Weather and Climate: Acting as meteorologists, students analyze complex weather data and patterns. They use this information to help a wildlife protection organization prepare for extreme weather events.



Learn more about each unit by viewing the [Third Grade Amplify Science Unit Maps](#).

GRADE 3 SCIENCE FACTS

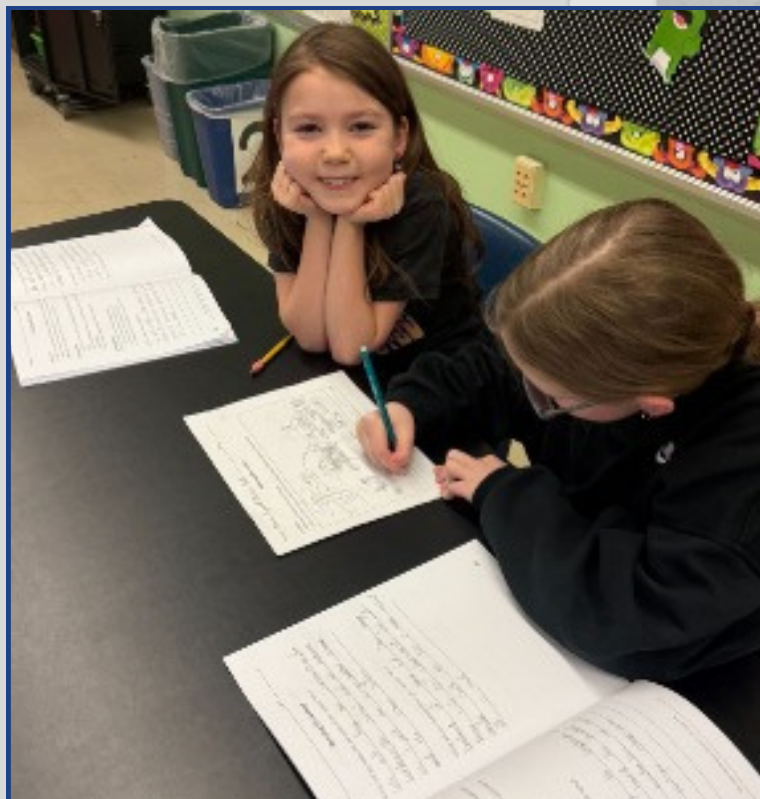
- ✓ 40 minutes of instruction daily
- ✓ Hands-on investigations, experiments, and simulations
- ✓ Collaborative discussions, reading, and writing opportunities to explain scientific ideas

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Amplify Science



Amplify Science is aligned to the [Next Generation Science Standards \(NGSS\)](#). It is designed to help students move beyond simply learning scientific facts to investigating real-world phenomena by gathering evidence, developing explanations, and applying their learning to solve new problems.





In third grade, students learn about geography, history, economics, and civics through the Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) Social Studies Alive! Our Community and Beyond program. Lessons encourage students to ask questions, analyze maps, examine primary sources, participate in discussions, and take part in hands-on activities that bring social studies to life. Students explore communities past and present, develop a better understanding of how people, places, and events are connected at the local, national, and global levels.

OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

Geography: Students will explore the fundamentals of geography. They will learn about the seven continents and five oceans, create a three-dimensional model of Earth, and develop map skills by using cardinal and intermediate directions with a compass to locate U.S. landmarks.

History: Students will explore immigration through primary sources, examine culture in their own community and around the world, and learn how everyday citizens have made positive contributions to their communities.

Economics: Students will learn about the roles of buyers and sellers, global trade, and apply economic concepts to analyze and solve real-world situations.

Civics: Students will learn about community services, the roles of local, state, and federal government, and the responsibilities of good citizenship, including ways they can make a positive impact in their community and beyond.

GRADE 3 SOCIAL STUDIES FACTS

- ✓ 80 minutes of instruction weekly
- ✓ Hands-on collaborative learning activities
- ✓ Visual learning with maps, timelines, charts, photographs



“...elementary social studies classrooms are “laboratories of democracy,” where young students develop social skills, grapple with complex ideas, and build a foundation for developing into civically knowledgeable and informed people in a democracy (NCSS, 2024).”



Learn more about each unit by visiting the [Third Grade Social Studies Curriculum Map](#).



RELATED ARTS

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Related arts classes are an important part of every student's elementary school experience. Throughout the school year, students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Library, where they develop skills and interests that complement their core classroom learning. Students also participate in Character Education lessons taught by the school counselor. These classes encourage creativity, curiosity, collaboration, healthy decision-making, and personal responsibility while giving students opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop lifelong interests. The elementary related arts program supports the growth of the whole child by helping students become well-rounded learners.

ART

Students expand their artistic skills by working with drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, weaving, and mixed media. They learn how artists use elements and principles such as value, contrast, proportion, and balance to organize artwork and express ideas. Students examine historical and contemporary artworks, make connections, and practice discussing and evaluating their own artwork.

MUSIC

- Review and expand upon previous learning
- Sing songs following conductor's cues
- Play, improvise and compose using classroom instruments
- Learn more terminology and be able to define symbols and perform accordingly
- Create and perform simple compositions for class Evaluate performers

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Develop fundamental movement skills; apply them across games, team sports, exploratory activities, and cooperative game units
- Apply ways to monitor and assess the body's response to moderate to vigorous physical activity with the FitnessGram program.
- Practice throwing, catching, kicking and striking skills in game settings
- Build spacial awareness, agility, and reaction time through movement-based activities and games
- Develop teamwork and communication skills by working cooperatively in small and large group game settings



LIBRARY

- Read a variety of literature, including identifying the characteristics of fables.
- Understand the organization of fiction books in the elementary library.
- Select books that match personal interests and reading ability.
- Use alphabetical order and the library catalog (Destiny OPAC) to locate resources.
- Understand the features of biographies and autobiographies.
- Practice responsible and ethical use of information.

HEALTH

- Identify components of health (physical, social, and mental/emotional) and how they relate in developing healthy habits.
- Understand the importance of basic hygiene habits.
- Identify different types of nutrients and how they relate to your diet.
- Identify what bullying may look and sound like.
- Identify and describe the structure and function of the major body systems. (Nervous, Muscular, Skeletal, Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive)

CHARACTER
EDUCATION

- Develop self-awareness by identifying personal strengths, emotions, and values.
- Strengthen communication and collaboration skills by practicing active listening, respectful conversations, teamwork, and conflict resolution.
- Build responsible decision-making skills by considering consequences, solving problems, and making safe, respectful, and ethical choices.
- Increase empathy and appreciation for others by recognizing different perspectives, celebrating diversity, and demonstrating kindness.

