Springhurst Elementary School
Independent Thinkers Change Worlds

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Third Grade Curriculum

Third grade is a year filled with wonderful learning experiences and immense growth in your child's interests, abilities, and academics. Our third grade team works hard to expand and modify the curriculum in order to meet the needs and interests of our students while also making the content enriching and enjoyable for all learners.

English Language Arts

Bookworms, the K-5 curriculum, provides the instruction that each of the students needs and deserves as they are actively reading, writing, listening, and speaking about complex ideas every day. A Bookworms classroom has three designated literacy blocks each day: Shared Reading, English Language Arts, and Differentiated Instruction.

- Within the *Shared Reading* block, children will partake in rereading activities and discussions to build students' ability to read fluently, build vocabulary, and to think critically about text.
- The *English Language Arts* block features a read-aloud to build language and vocabulary knowledge, build world knowledge, and improve students' inferential thinking. During this time, students participate in genre-based writing with embedded grammar instruction.
- In the *Differentiated Instruction* time, children work through cycles of teacher-led and student-driven activities addressing specific individual needs.

Another component of the Bookworms Reading and Writing day is a dedication to word study. Word study is a type of spelling instruction that is designed to help children link sound and pattern so that they can read and spell unknown words. Students in all grade levels have a daily designated time for word study instruction and time to practice the words across the week.

Math

IM Math™ (Illustrative Mathematics) is fully aligned to the focus, rigor, and coherence of the standards, and has been given the stamp of approval by EdReports, earning perfect scores in the areas of Focus & Coherence and Rigor & Mathematical Practices. The scope and sequence of units, activities and representations are designed to help students develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, build fluency with procedures and solve mathematical problems that reflect and connect to their lived experiences.

A problem based curriculum, IM places a focus on student thinking and reasoning, mathematical discourse, and student collaboration.

Topics of Study for Grade 3:

- Introducing Multiplication
- Area and Multiplication
- Wrapping up Addition and Subtraction through 1000
- Relating Multiplication to Division
- Fractions as Numbers
- Measuring Length, Time, Liquid Volume and Weight
- Two Dimensional Shapes and Perimeter

Link to family website: Illustrative Mathematics Website

Science

The third grade science program includes units of study in various disciplines of science that are also connected to many reading and writing experiences. This is the first year that the third graders will experience brand new **Science 21** units. These units include the study of **forces/interactions, interdependent ecosystems, weather/climate and inheritance of traits.**

Another major science focus in third grade is studying the life cycle of various organisms. The favorite science study by far is Butterflies! The students each receive their own caterpillar and make observations as it goes through its life cycle and emerges as a butterfly! This ties in to our beloved field trip to the Butterfly Garden at the Bronx Zoo which we will visit in the spring.

Social Studies

In third grade the children begin to learn about communities and people around the world. We start in our own country and then the children will be introduced to a variety of nations within our global community. Communities that will be studied in depth this year include the United States and China. The students use their new Social Studies knowledge to write informative, nonfiction articles and create digital presentations. Students will also learn map skills including cardinal and intermediate directions, using a map legend, identifying continents and oceans, locating places on a map, and identifying landforms.

Character Education

Developing caring, responsible, and respectful community members through education and active participation is one of our primary goals as elementary school educators. Parental and guardian support is key to the success of some of these programs and initiatives. In grade 3 some of the topics we discuss are recognizing, reporting and refusing bullying as well as bystander power. We utilize the "Steps to Respect" curriculum in the classroom and incorporate multiple read alouds throughout the year that focus on community altruism and celebrating differences.

Homework

English Language Arts: Instead of traditional homework, we encourage families to engage in reading together, discussing the themes and characters, and sharing personal reflections about the texts. The type of text chosen does not matter. Students can choose magazines, books, newspapers, blogs, informative texts, or fiction texts. All of these provide an opportunity for children to build vocabulary, world knowledge, and understanding of text structures. Also in line with Bookworms' philosophy around homework, they do not suggest sending

spelling lists home, as the goal is to move away from rote memorization and to help students develop a strong understanding of spelling conventions and concepts.

Math: Math homework will be given on a regular basis. Teachers will communicate how and when homework should be turned in. The purpose of these assignments is simply the practice of concepts that the child is working on at school. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Allow your child to work independently as much as possible. Your interest in your child's work is a very important component in the beginning development of good work habits and a positive attitude.

Communications

Throughout the year, we will be observing your child's growth and development so that we can support their individual needs. We are always available to discuss any thoughts, questions, or concerns you may have. Please note that all dismissal information is handled through the School Dismissal Manager. It is important for you to make any changes to your child's dismissal prior to the cut-off time. Please be sure to update as necessary.

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child! Thank you!