

3rd grade course descriptions:

My third graders move beyond learning to read and read to learn, to develop a deeper understanding, and for their pure love of reading. Third graders engage in class discussions to gain insight from their peers, and to share their own ideas in all subject areas. They discuss class novels by referencing textual evidence, and providing their own schema to draw conclusions about characters and the novel's plot. My students learn how to use a more formalized writing process of graphic organizers, drafts, edits, peer conference, and finalizing. Third graders are empowered to communicate their opinions, and their knowledge through their organized, and thoughtful writing. In third grade, students build confidence to understand it is okay to make mistakes, and gain a sense of empathy towards others.

Social Studies

In social studies, third graders focus on four major disciplines: History, Civics, Geography and Economics. Our major social studies units are Native Americans, American democracy and citizenship, mapping skills and characteristics of different regions, families/communities of the past, and explorers and important people of the past. Each social studies unit is also connected to a writing assignment that involves either an opinion or informational piece on the topic.

Science

In science, third graders cover multiple topics in physical science, life science, and earth science. For physical science, students focus on simple machines, electromagnetism, electricity, and different types of energy. For life science and earth science, third graders learn about how things grow, different species, adaptations, life cycles, plants, extinction, fossils, and environmental changes. Science will require a lot of group work and hands on experiments.

Reading

Third graders read six books of different genres (realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, biography, poetry) as a class. In addition, students learn reading strategies such as making inferences, using text evidence, identifying theme, and summarizing. They also work in small groups throughout the school year using leveled readers and passages for specific strategies. Third graders continue to grow their love of reading by utilizing their classroom library, visiting the public library, along with the local bookstore for storytime and author studies.

Writing

Third graders use their reading/writing composition books daily for reading response questions and writing assignments. Students begin writing assignments with the use of a graphic organizer to brainstorm and outline details about their topic. For each writing assignment, students work through the writing process by conferencing with the teacher and peer editing. Writing assignments will include persuasive/opinion, narrative, compare/contrast, how to, and non-fiction/research based. Third graders continue to practice their cursive writing. Lastly, students continue to improve their grammar skills with a focus on regular and irregular plural

nouns, abstract nouns, use of quotation marks, compound and complex sentences, verb tenses and use of commas.

Spelling/ Vocabulary

Third graders have new spelling words weekly and they receive homework to help them practice their spelling words at home. In addition to spelling, students have new vocabulary words biweekly. Vocabulary Units include: communication, sight, movement, living things, work and money, time, language and writing, measurement, and the law.

Math

In math, students use the Foresman and Wesley curriculum along with math stations. Students begin third grade with a review of basic multiplication and division facts. They then move to more advanced multiplication and division with a focus on multiplying up to 3 digit numbers, and dividing with remainders. Third graders shift their focus to fractions, specifically comparing fractions, and customary linear measurement. Next, students work with decimals exploring tenths and hundredths along with adding and subtracting decimals. They then work on measurement of weight, capacity and temperature, and practice probability. Following that, they review reading graphs and making graphs. Lastly, students practice telling time and determining elapsed time. Throughout the year, students continue to review and practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Third graders solve multi-step word problems, master math facts, and explain their strategies/thinking to each other.

Civility

During Civility time, students discuss social emotional topics. Students typically read a story as a class to model the theme of the week such as respect, or self discipline. Then, students discuss possible solutions in different scenarios that are likely to occur. This is a time for third graders to work together, solve problems, and understand what it means to be a “positive classmate” and a “good citizen” to all.