



# KY Standards

Your home for Kentucky Academic Standards.



KYstandards.org

# Welcome to Grade 3!

## A Family's Guide to the *Kentucky Academic Standards*

This guide was made to help families understand the *Kentucky Academic Standards* and to show what children will learn by the end of 3rd grade. This tool provides information about the key ideas and skills teachers will introduce in mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies. It includes possible examples of what students will be asked to do in class, how to help your child at home, questions you can ask your 3rd-grader and questions families can ask their child's teacher.

This guide also was designed to help parents understand how they can work with teachers to support the learning of their 3rd-grader. When teachers and families work together to help students master *Kentucky's Academic Standards*, students can succeed by developing the skills they will need for life after graduation.

If you have questions about this information or if your child needs extra help, please contact your child's teacher.

### **Why are the *Kentucky Academic Standards* important?**

*Kentucky Academic Standards* are important because they help make sure that all students, no matter where they live or what school they attend, have the skills they need to go after a successful future. Standards represent a goal or outcome of a subject area (such as mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies). They help set clear and consistent expectations for what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through high school. The standards are not a curriculum and do not determine the design of a lesson plan or how units should be organized. Decisions on how best to help students meet the goals in the standards are left to local school districts and teachers.

### **How are the standards organized?**

The *Kentucky Academic Standards* are organized differently based on the content area. Some of the *Kentucky Academic Standards* are arranged grade-by-grade, while others are grouped into several grade levels, such as "high school" for grades 9-12. In all subjects, the standards show what students should learn and be able to do, but not how those learning experiences are to be designed or what resources should be used. For more information on the *Kentucky Academic Standards*, visit <https://kystandards.org/> to read the complete standards and find standards-related resources.



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# Grade 3 Mathematics

## Overview:

During 3rd grade, students will develop the ability to multiply and divide up to 100 and add and subtract up to 1,000 using place value and properties of operations. Your child will:

- Represent and solve problems using multiplication and division;
- Have a variety of experiences with fractions to prepare for 4th grade;
- Use rounding to estimate answers for addition and subtraction problems in order to decide if an answer makes sense;
- Solve problems involving measurement; and
- Understand and apply the statistics process.

## Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Using place value to round numbers to the nearest 10 or 100;
- Multiplying and dividing up to  $10 \times 10$ ;
- Placing fractions on a number line along with whole numbers;
- Comparing fractions by using drawings;
- Telling and writing time to the minute;
- Solving elapsed time problems;
- Identifying a statistical question, gathering data and creating charts or graphs to make observations about the data; and
- Classifying shapes by the number of sides and corners.

## How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Play math games with your child such as: What are two numbers that would give you an answer between 30 and 40? Can you think of other numbers that would work?
- Explore fractions in the kitchen. Ask questions such as: How many  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups would we need to make one whole cup? How many  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups are in  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup?

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- How are fractions like other numbers?
- How can we lay out our game cards so there are the same number in each row?
- What are some real-world examples of objects that come in equal groups? (For example, packs of gum, juice boxes, packs of pencils.)

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- How does my child respond to difficult tasks in class?
- What is the first step my child takes to solve a real-world problem?
- Which multiplication and division strategies work well for my child?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help him or her improve?
- How can I support my child's development in mathematics?



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# Grade 3 Reading and Writing

## Overview:

During 3rd grade, students will read fluently and with expression, as well as practice a variety of strategies for reading and writing with confidence. Your child will:

- Use different strategies to read unknown words and words that have many syllables;
- Listen to, read, talk and write about 3rd-grade fiction and nonfiction using clues from the text to help make sense of and analyze what they have read;
- Form all upper- and lowercase cursive letters to produce words and sentences written in legible cursive; and
- Speak and write appropriately using parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation and generalized spelling patterns, as well as language that shows a growing vocabulary; use glossaries/beginning dictionaries.

## Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Identifying and describing how text is structured, including comparison, cause/effect and problem/solution structures;
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts with supporting evidence and reasons, using technology, when appropriate;
- Forming legible, cursive letters, words and sentences; and
- Determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.

## How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Select a poem, song or brief story at your child's reading level (ask your child's teacher what reading level is best for her or him) and practice reading (or singing) it aloud repeatedly.
- Select two or three objects around your home. Ask your child to think about and explain how the objects are similar to and different from each other.
- Express an opinion about a topic or issue and provide reasons to support that opinion.
- Write a grocery list or wish list in cursive.
- Encourage your child to ask what new words mean.

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What are you reading in class? What can you tell me about it?
- Can you connect with what is happening in the text? Why or why not?
- What have you learned from the text? (Remember, text can be anything that communicates a message, so the learning could come from listening to a presenter, watching a video or reading a billboard, for example.)
- Can you show me a sample of something you have written recently? Tell me about how you decided what you would write. Show me a section of your writing you are proud of/still working on/would like to make better.

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What is my child reading and writing about at school, and what topics are being explored?
- What vocabulary words does my child need to learn?
- How can I encourage learning at home and what resources do I need to support my child?



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# Grade 3 Science

## Overview:

During 3rd grade, your child will learn skills that promote analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking, problem solving and connections across different areas of science. Your child will:

- Look at data and weather expected during a particular season. They will use this information to come up with solutions to reduce the impact of severe weather;
- Look at different life cycles and understand that organisms have different traits, some that are inherited and some that are affected by the environment;
- Use magnets to look at cause-and-effect relationships and force; and
- Consider engineering design principles to solve problems, such as why some bridges withstand natural forces, while others collapse.

## Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Investigating how buildings are designed to withstand hurricanes and tornadoes;
- Using models of life cycles to describe that different organisms have birth, growth, reproduction and death in common;
- Comparing how animals survive in their environment; and
- Conducting experiments to see how forces affect the strength and direction of motion.

## How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Keep track of temperature and rainfall over summer, fall, winter and spring to look for patterns.
- As you watch movies or read books set in other states or countries, help your child identify similarities and differences in climate.
- Provide a variety of magnets for your child to use to explore.
- Participate in local nature programs.
- Visit zoos and parks and use hiking, biking and cross-country trails to observe groups of animals and discuss how the group works together to help all members survive.

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- How is Kentucky's weather different in the summer than in winter?
- How is Kentucky's weather different than weather in Alaska? Texas?
- What traits did you inherit?
- What happens to animals when we clear land to build a house?
- During tug-of-war, what happens when both sides pull with the same strengths? Different strength?
- Does the size of a magnet make it stronger or weaker?

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What are resources I could use to help my child at home?
- How should we record our observations of weather?
- What are different ways to discuss forces with my child?
- What community programs do you know of that would reinforce the science she or he is learning?



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# Grade 3 Social Studies

## Overview:

In 3rd grade, students will apply the idea of community globally, understanding the impact of human interaction between groups on different continents. Your child will:

- Explain the basic purposes and functions of different governing bodies in the world while comparing how diverse societies govern themselves;
- Illustrate the relationship between supply and demand;
- Compare their local community to diverse world communities in terms of members, customs and traditions, while explaining how world events impact Kentucky; and
- Investigate how communities work together.

## Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Using maps to locate different countries;
- Explaining how cultural, economic and geographic characteristics impact how humans move;
- Explaining how different countries' governments address their problems;
- Comparing cultures and traditions of people around the world; and
- Explaining how countries trading with one another affects the world.

## How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Encourage your child to ask questions. When your child asks questions, rather than give answers immediately, suggest thinking about where the answer might be found.
- Talk about different countries as they appear on the news and find the country on a map.
- Compare daily lives in the U.S. to the lives of people in other countries. For example, what do children in other countries eat for lunch? What do houses look like across the world?
- Look at newspaper coverage from a variety of countries reporting on the same event. Discuss the similarities and differences in the articles.
- Talk to your child about the importance of civic participation, such as voting, etc., and locate examples in past and current events.

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What countries would you be interested in seeing or visiting?
- What cultures or traditions from around the world do you find interesting?
- How are lives similar and different in communities across the world?
- What goods (possessions, property, items used for sale or trade) are imported to and exported from Kentucky?

## Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What countries and regions will be studied throughout the year?
- What books or topics would help my child become more culturally aware?
- Where can my child and I visit in the local community to support what is being taught in class?
- What resources are available to support learning about social studies skills?



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