

Third grade students learn in many different ways.

Third graders learn as a whole class, in teams of three, through guided learning centers, and in independent learning centers. Students are encouraged to ask questions, express what they think, and compare their ideas with the ideas of others. They are provided like experiences so they can share and compare with classmates. Third graders continue to relate science to their everyday world.

Visual Arts

The study of visual arts builds on learning that was introduced at previous grade levels. Skills and concepts continue to be developed through guided practice, independent choice and problem-solving.

Visual arts emphasis at Grade 3 is on:

- Research and personal interest
- Demonstrating ease in using a variety of media
- Use of space and balance
- Fables and myths, measurement, calligraphy, plants
- Differentiating between landscape, portrait and still life

Students in Grade 3 attend formal art class weekly with a professional art teacher. They will be exposed to the idea that art can be a hobby or profession.

Music

The study of music builds upon skills and concepts introduced in second grade. Once a week, children attend formal music classes with a music teacher. Focus areas include: the ability to demonstrate expression while singing and playing instruments; increasing ability to sing on pitch and play various rhythms; developing skills in composing short musical pieces; developing listening skills; devising criteria for evaluating performances and compositions; and understanding music in relation to history and culture. Children learn to respond to music and show respect for the efforts of others.

Physical Education (PE)

Third grade students attend physical education with a certified physical education teacher once a week. Focus is placed on increasing proficiency in skills such as: kicking, dribbling, passing and trapping, striking with a paddle, rope skipping, basic tumbling and rhythmic activities. Classes are designed for the learner to participate successfully in a variety of movement forms and gain competence toward lifetime physical activities. American and International folk dances are studied and performed. Students demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all components of health-related fitness.

Health Education

Third graders learn that eating well helps them stay healthy and that food gives them energy for work and play. Students discuss drug abuse, the dangers of smoking, and methods of handling various emergencies. The issues of stress and peer pressure are discussed as students explore the value of getting along with others.

Parents/Guardians will receive a Family Living, Ethical Behavior and Human Sexuality (FLEBHS) Parent Packet which is designed to share the curriculum information with the family. FLEBHS for third graders can be described as character education, and consists of instruction that promotes understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, socia, and moral aspects of human

growth and development, including male and female relationships. It emphasizes positive behaviors, attitude development and guidance related to relationships with family members and others.

Special Education

Some children have special needs. It may be discovered through the course of the year that your child has special needs, either because of a learning problem that affects his ability to process information or because of special physical, mental or emotional conditions. Your teacher may discuss the need for further testing or you may notice a problem yourself that you choose to discuss with the school. If your child is evaluated and properly identified, you and a team of teachers will develop an Individualized Education Program, (IEP) or create a Section 504 Plan (a special instruction sheet that deals specifically with your child's needs). Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools offers all services required by federal and state laws and guidelines.

Parent Support

Reading

- Minimum of 20 minutes daily, independent reading at your child's reading level
- Make a word bank for further study of unknown words
- Read to your child and ask questions about the story
- Research information on topics of interest through the library
- Write letters, reports and journal entries based on informed judgements

Math

- Use newspapers, magazines, etc. to show, compare and order numbers
- Practice multiplication and division facts
- Provide cooking and measuring activities
- Plan menus and compute the cost
- Sort objects into groups
- Find patterns in magazines, etc.
- Interpret and discuss the graphs found in the newspaper
- Play Battleship and/or Yahtzee games

Writing

- Read with your child. Look for ways that authors use action words, words that describe, interesting words, etc. in their writing
- Ask the child to list everything he/she knows about a topic (zebras, baseball, Girl Scouts, trucks, water, etc.). Then ask him/her to categorize the information (ex: ZEBRAS: write down ideas about how they look, what they eat, where they live, their habits, etc.). Parents may contribute to the brainstorming of information so that the child will have many ideas to organize. The student can construct paragraphs from the grouping of relevant ideas
- Play spelling games with your child
- Use the newspaper/other publications to pick out interesting words to learn to spell
- Use words that were misspelled from your child's own writing to learn to spell

In compliance with federal law, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.



Especially for Parents

Family Curriculum Guide

Curriculum and Instruction - 980-343-6975
Family Services - 980-343-6256



REACH FURTHER.

Global competitiveness starts here.

Reading and Writing

Third graders read from a variety of texts including chapter books, poetry, fiction and nonfiction. Comprehension strategies and skills are reviewed and reinforced to help students develop reading for understanding. Third graders will pursue personal and collaborative inquiry skills through study and research.

Third graders can read independently.

Third graders will review phonetic skills to enhance ability to understand and decode increasingly difficult words independently.

Third graders will develop a broader vocabulary.

Discussions of concepts developed from the thematic literature will have students actively incorporating new reading vocabulary into their own speaking vocabulary.

Third graders will independently use comprehension strategies and skills.

Third graders are taught comprehension strategies to allow monitoring, understanding, making sense of text and solving problems while they are reading. Students will also be using comprehension skills to deepen the reader’s understanding of the logic behind the text.

Third graders will learn research and inquiry skills.

Students develop inquiry skills through group and independent research assignments. These concepts are developed through the thematic based literature studies and explored during class. The students will then develop their own concepts, which will be addressed and explored through the Concept/Question Board.

Third graders write biographies, folk tales, research reports, letters, narratives, plays, and poetry.

Third graders will learn to identify the type of literature they are reading. They will become more comfortable with the various forms of literature by writing their own folk tales, biographies, plays and narratives.

Third graders will write book reports and summaries and answer questions about what they read.

Third graders discuss characters and events from their readings. They will discuss and write about main ideas, plots and morals. They will learn to look for similes (using “like” or “as” to compare: “Her hair was as shiny as a new copper penny.”) and metaphors (comparing two unlike things *without* using like or as: “My daddy is a big cuddly bear.”)

Third graders learn to create authentic writing through the process that includes:

- Pre-writing - Planning
- Drafting
- Revising
- Editing

Third Graders continue to perfect their cursive writing by building upon the cursive skills introduced in second semester of second grade.

Technology Integration: Word Processing

- Use word processing as a tool to write, edit and publish sentences, paragraphs and stories, research products.

Mathematics

Major Concepts

- Place value with whole numbers
- Comparing and ordering numbers
- Multiplication and division facts (through 12s)
- 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication and division
- Understanding fractions (sets, regions, and number lines)
- Elapsed time
- Temperature (F & C)
- Length, weight, and capacity
- 2-D and 3-D shapes
- Coordinate points
- Circle graphs
- Permutations and combinations
- Repeating and growing patterns
- Writing number sentences (equations) for story problems

Skills to Maintain

- Multi-digit addition and subtraction
- Length
- Telling time
- Line plots, tallies, and pictographs
- Venn diagrams

Technology Integration: Spreadsheet

- Recognize spreadsheets as a tool to organize, calculate and graph information to make predictions.

Multiplication Matrix										
x	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100

5 x 6 = 30

10 x 10 = 100

5 x 5 = 25

Social Studies

The third grade study is designed to expand the students’ concept of “leaders” in relationship to their communities.

Third graders learn there are many different roles people play in society and are able to recognize the qualities of good citizenship by social environment.

Third graders discover how literature is integrated in the social studies discipline by reading about local, state, national and global leaders (fictional and non-fictional). They identify characteristics of responsible citizenship and explain how civic participation can impact changes within the community. Students will explain the need for leaders and describe their roles and responsibilities. They will recognize diverse local, state, and national leaders, identify their deeds, and investigate the contributions that these leaders have made to society.

Third graders evaluate change in different communities.

Third graders recognize the concept of time and change and can analyze changes which have occurred in communities past and present. They will identify how individuals, events, and ideas have changed over time. Their field trip to a historic site helps them to better understand the history of the community and compare and contrast the roles of important citizens both past and present.

Third graders apply basic geographic and economic concepts to the study of communities.

Third graders continue to use maps, globes and apply geographic terms to describe the communities they are studying. They are able to compare how people adapt and change their environment to meet their needs. Students examine the economic resources in various communities and recognize the concept of scarcity and its impact on the production, distribution and the use of goods and services in these communities.

Third graders will recognize how technology is used at home, school, and in the community.

Third graders describe the contributions made by community leaders in technology and identify the impact of technological change around the world.

Technology Integration: Societal/Ethical Issues

- Identify, discuss, and chart uses of technology in the community (e.g., farmers, grocery, restaurant, veterinarian, medical and emergency services).

Science

Third grade students develop the skills of science through the yearly themes of Patterns and Systems.

Through hands-on, inquiry based learning third grade students focus on the study of systems as their unit of investigation. They learn that a system is an interrelated group of objects or components that form a functioning unit. Students explore, describe and record. They collect data and graph information, observe using simple tools, experiment and communicate. Third graders take notes and record experiments and results in notebooks.

Third grade students focus on four main units.

- plant growth and adaptations.
- investigations of soil properties.
- earth/moon/sun system.
- skeletal and muscle systems of the human body.