

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.



Language Arts



The third grade Language Arts program is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. We use a variety of approaches to build the skills necessary for success in reading and writing. The children will participate in reading workshop every day. The goal is to guide the children through many different reading strategies and literacy experiences in order to help them become independent, lifelong readers and writers. Children will be reading independently, in partnerships, as well as in guided reading groups.

Writing Workshop is taught through a process approach, which includes writer's notebooks, planning, drafting, editing, revising and publishing. Each student will be expected to complete writing pieces in a variety of genres.

The third grade students are participating in a wonderful phonics program called ***Fundations***. Third graders use ***Fundations*** to provide a systematic and explicit approach to reading and spelling with phonics. ***Fundations*** instruction emphasizes phonemic awareness, phonics word study, high frequency word study, fluency, vocabulary, cursive and spelling. Students have had experience using ***Fundations*** in kindergarten, first and second grade and many of the protocols, strategies and procedures will remain the same this year.

Students will become acclimated to the expectations of the common core learning standards through ***Engage NY English Language Arts Modules*** and teacher developed curriculum. These programs provide exposure to complex, authentic fiction and nonfiction texts. Students will learn to respond to literature in writing using details from the text to support their thinking and making inferences about what they have read. These curriculums also help prepare the third graders for the NY state tests in the spring. If you would like to access sample questions and reading passages, please visit [EngageNY.org](https://www.engageny.org).

The children will also participate in rich class discussions and reading activities using ***Scholastic Storyworks*** magazine. This magazine is designed to meet the ELA standards by providing students with complex texts in a variety of genres, such as fiction, nonfiction, poetry, debates, plays, myths, classic literature, history, and current events. ***Storyworks*** combines interesting complex texts with rigorous support materials to build the skills students need. Students will occasionally be assigned homework using texts and resources from this magazine.



Math



The mathematics curriculum in third grade is based on a brand new program called Illustrative Mathematics (IM). Our Springhurst students piloted a few of these units over the past few years and we adopted the program school wide last year!

IM Math™ 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 their lived experiences.



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.



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! Frog Adaptations is an interdisciplinary unit where students will be placed in research groups to become frog experts! Students will create their own research project surrounding a frog of their choice and will present their findings to the class. Parents will be invited to the classroom to observe our Freaky Frog projects, or "FROGects" as we like to call them!



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.



Springhurst FLES Program



The Spanish FLES curriculum for third grade is a sequential model in which all students receive 15-minute sessions daily. FLES instruction is proficiency-oriented with a greater focus on meaningful communication than on grammatical structure. Students are encouraged first to understand and then to produce in the language. Using an immersion approach, similar to the way children learn their first language, students participate in language training activities that are geared to the child's interest level and include experiences with cultural practices and integration of thematic content. These experiences emphasize listening, speaking, reading and comprehension in meaningful, communicative contents: social/cultural situations, games, songs, and rhymes in addition to experiences with arts, crafts, movement and total physical response. Each lesson lays the foundation for the next and children gain confidence in listening and speaking. As they follow the sequential FLES curriculum each year, they progress to reading and writing in the target language.



Homework



Reading for 20 minutes each night is expected. You may read with your child, to your child, or have your child read alone. It is important that you talk about the content, share your response and reactions with your child, and encourage your child to talk about what was read. Please make nightly reading a priority in your home.

Math, Foundations, and ELA homework will be given on a weekly basis. The purpose of these assignments are not only to practice concepts we are working on in class, but also to help foster time management, responsibility and organizational skills in your students. Please set aside a quiet time and place for homework. Allow your child to work independently as much as possible and then review the homework with them once it has been completed. Your interest in your child's work is a very important component in the beginning development of good work habits and a positive attitude. In addition to reading time, completing homework should take no more than approximately 20 minutes.