

# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

# THIRD GRADE



## LANGUAGE ARTS

This year your child will be working to develop his or her understanding and mastery of Grade 3 Common Core Standards for English-Language Arts. These standards integrate all aspects of Language Arts development and are categorized under Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language.

### READING

- Apply Phonics and word recognition skills
- Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Identify and know the meaning of common prefixes and derivational suffixes (e.g., re-, pre-, -er, -ing).
- Decode multi-syllable words (e.g., deliberate, flexible).
- Decode words with common Latin suffixes ( e.g., -able, -ible, -ence).
- Read grade appropriate irregularly spelled words. Read with fluency.
- Read on level text with appropriate text, prose and poetry with appropriate accuracy, rate and expression.
- Identify key ideas and details
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of literature and informational text; refer explicitly to the text as the basis for answers.
- Recount stories, determine the central message, lesson or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key ideas in the text.
- Determine main idea of a text, recount key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- Understand the structure of texts
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
- Refer to parts of stories, dramas and poems using terms such as chapter, scene and stanza; describe how successive parts build upon earlier sections.
- Distinguish your point of view from that of the narrator or a character in the story or the author of a text.
- Determine the meaning of grade appropriate words and phrases in informational text.
- Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to efficiently locate information relevant to a given topic.
- Explain how specific aspects of an illustration contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story or text.
- Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters.
- Describe the connection between sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).
- Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- Read and Comprehend a Range of Texts with Appropriate Grade Level Complexity

### WRITING

- Write a Variety of Texts for Various Purposes
- Write opinion pieces that provide a point of view, include reasons to support that opinion and provide a concluding statement or section.
- Write informative/explanatory texts that examine a topic, provide facts,

definitions and details and provide a concluding statement or section.

- Write narratives that introduce a narrator and/or characters, use dialogue and descriptions and provide a sense of closure.
- Plan, revise, edit and use a variety of digital tools to publish writing with guidance and support from adults and peers.
- Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital resources, take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into categories.

### Range of Writing

- Write routinely over extended and shorter time frames for a variety of tasks, purposes and audiences.

### SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Participate in Collaborative Conversations with Understanding
- Come to discussions prepared, follow agreed upon rules for discussion, ask questions to check understanding and explain understanding of the topic under discussion, supporting details of a text or information presented in diverse media and formats.
- Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
- Present Knowledge and Ideas Clearly
- Report on a topic, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant details speaking clearly at an understandable pace.
- Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to the situation in order to provide requested detail and clarification.

### LANGUAGE

- Demonstrate Command of Conventions of Standard English
- Apply parts of speech correctly when writing and speaking.
- Produce simple, compound and complex sentences.
- Apply capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing.
- Use Knowledge of Language
- Choose words and phrases for effect.
- Apply formal and informal uses of English.
- Understand and Use Grade Appropriate Vocabulary
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases using a variety of strategies.
- Acquire and accurately use conversational, academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

## HANDWRITING

- Introduce scholars to the cursive alphabet

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Government and Civics

- Develops and understands decision-making, problem-solving, listening, speaking, personal and group interaction skills.
- Explain the importance of rules/laws and one's rights and responsibilities as a member of a school and community.
- Explain characteristics that help define culture (e.g., language, religion, clothing).
- Participate in collaborative conversations about social studies topics and texts.
- Present information with clarity, voice, and fluency and respond to related questions.

## Geography

- Use symbols in map keys to identify cities, state capitals and the nation's capital. Identify the major natural, cultural and regional features of the United States, including a focus on Connecticut.
- Differentiate absolute and relative locations (longitude and latitude versus proximity)

## History

- Explain the events of historical figures (G. Washington, H. Tubman, MLK, R. Parks, C.Chavez, Squanto, etc.)
- Create and present written and visual work to demonstrate an understanding of history and social issues.

## SCIENCE

### Life Science

- Heredity and Evolution
- Observe that organisms can survive and reproduce only in environments that meet their basic needs.
- Describe the structures and behaviors of plants and animals that help them survive in different environments.
- Properties of Matter, Forces, and Motion
- Classify materials based on properties that can be identified and described through the use of simple tests.
- Describe the changes in some of the properties of materials due to heating or cooling.
- Recognize that position and motion of objects can be changed by pushing or pulling.
- Understand that the more massive an object is, the less effect a given force will have on its motion.

### Earth Science/ Science and Technology in Society

- Understand that Earth's materials provide resources for all living things, and perceive that these resources are limited and should be conserved.
- Recognize that decisions made by individuals can impact the global supply of many resources.
- Earth Science: Geology — The Rock Cycle (i.e., igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks).

### Scientific Inquiry

- Demonstrate a thoughtful and coordinated attempt to search out, describe, explain and predict natural phenomena.
- Participate in speaking, listening, presenting, interpreting, reading and writing about science.
- Understand that mathematics provides useful tools for the description, analysis and presentation of scientific data and ideas.

## MATHEMATICS

Our mathematics curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSS-M) that define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of the year at each grade level.

Our instructional focus in Grade 3 is on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes. To provide you with an understanding of your child's mathematics learning, we have highlighted domains and clusters of standards for Grade 3 below.

### Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

- Model with mathematics.

- Use appropriate tools strategically.

- Attend to precision.

- Look for and make use of structure.

- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

### Key Fluencies

- Add/subtract within 1,000 using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

- Multiply/divide within 100 using strategies and algorithms based on the relationship between multiplication and division or properties of operations.

- Know from memory all products of two one-digit numbers.

### Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.

- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.

- Solve problems involving the four operations and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.

### Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

### Number and Operations – Fractions

- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.

- Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time to nearest minute, liquid, and volumes and masses of objects.

- Represent and interpret data.

- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and addition

- Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.

### Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

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