

Guide to Student Learning in Third Grade



*The student learning guide provides valuable information on what students learn in third grade.
Use this information to support and reinforce learning at home.*

At primary schools, all students will acquire foundational literacy and math skills in child-centered learning environments. The primary school program engages students in a variety of literacy experiences and interactions that introduce and reinforce essential literacy skills and strategies.

Classroom instruction is shaped by the guiding principle that all students must acquire the foundational reading and writing skills necessary to be strategic readers, thinkers, and writers. Language, reading, and writing skills are explicitly taught during English Language Arts instruction. Social studies and science instruction are used to apply and reinforce literacy skills as students use oral language, reading, and writing skills to learn essential understanding.

Information and communication technology instruction is embedded into all content areas. The district provides each student with a device to introduce students to the use of technology tools for communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.

English Language Arts (ELA)

In third grade, students will continue to develop their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills through a balanced literacy approach that includes instruction focused on modeled, shared, guided, and independent reading and writing experiences. In addition, literacy skills will be integrated into science, social studies and health instruction. Students will have ample opportunities to read, write, listen and speak in order to further understand the grade-level content.

READING: Students in grade 3 will use more advanced strategies to increase their deep comprehension of text. A variety of text and genres will be used including fiction, informational text, and poetry. Grade three students continue to build their skills in text analysis and will become proficient at citing evidence from text when responding. In addition, students will analyze both fiction and informational text and consider the author's craft in these texts. Foundational skills are expanded in grade 3, including grade-level phonics and word analysis, Latin roots, multi-syllable words, and irregularly spelled words.

WRITING: Students will use the writing process to write for different purposes and audiences in a variety of genres including narrative, informational, and opinion. Students in grade 3 will complete a more complex guided research piece that incorporates a higher level application of writing skills. They also will have multiple opportunities to build their writing skills as they write to respond to their reading and create short fictional and narrative pieces.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING: Students will understand that being competent in speaking and listening will allow them to take advantage of new opportunities for communication. Students will listen and speak to understand, to interact socially, to extend discussion, and to discuss content.

Mathematics

In third grade, instructional time is focused on four critical areas that will enable students to:

Develop an understanding of multiplication and division, and strategies for multiplication and division within 100:

- Students develop an understanding of the meanings of multiplication and division of whole numbers through activities and problems involving equal-sized groups, arrays, and area models.
- Students begin to understand that multiplication is finding an unknown product, and division is finding an unknown factor.
- Students use properties of operations to calculate products of whole numbers, using increasingly sophisticated strategies based on these properties to solve multiplication and division problems involving single-digit factors.
- Through the comparison of a variety of solution strategies, students learn the relationship between multiplication and division.

Develop an understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions:

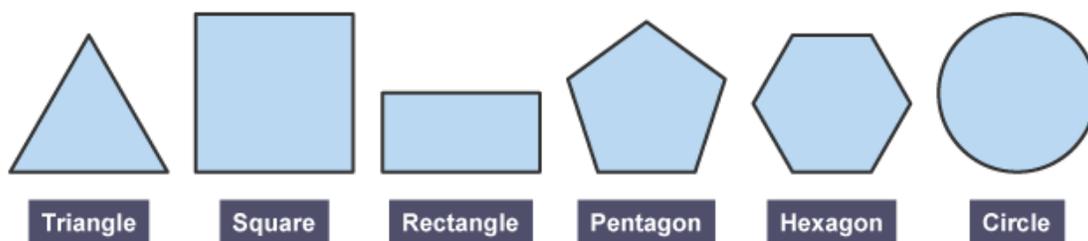
- Students develop an understanding of fractions, beginning with unit fractions.
- Students view fractions in general as being built out of unit fractions, and they use fractions along with visual fraction models to represent parts of a whole.
- Students understand that the size of a fractional part is relative to the size of the whole.
- Students connect fractions to the number line and understand that the whole is the interval between 0 and 1.
- Students are able to use fractions to represent numbers equal to, less than, and greater than one.
- Students solve problems that involve comparing fractions by using visual fraction models and strategies based on noticing equal numerators or denominators.

Develop an understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area:

- Students recognize area as an attribute of two-dimensional regions.
- Students measure the area of a shape.
- Students understand that rectangular arrays can be decomposed into identical rows or into identical columns. By decomposing rectangles into rectangular arrays of squares, students connect area to multiplication, and justify using multiplication to determine the area of a rectangle.

Describe and analyze two-dimensional shapes:

- Students describe, analyze, and compare properties of two-dimensional shapes.
- Students compare and classify shapes by their sides and angles, and connect these with definitions of shapes.
- Students also relate their fraction work to geometry by expressing the area of part of a shape as a unit fraction of the whole.



Science

In third grade, the study of science is divided into the Scientific Process, Physical Setting, and the Living Environment. Students will continue to appreciate and understand science—how it contributes to their lives and society, and how it impacts decisions regarding the environment, career choices, and future learning.

Children will participate in activities to acquire skills and knowledge in the areas of:

- Weather and Climate
- Forces and Interactions
- Life Cycles and Traits
- Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

While engaged in these units, students will continue to develop their observing, analyzing, and documenting skills by:

- Investigating different forms of energy.
- Using a thermometer to measure heat.
- Making predictions.
- Stating a hypothesis.
- Recording observations, data, and conclusions.
- Participating in an inquiry problem-solving experience.
- Writing step-by-step directions for an experiment.

Social Studies

In third grade, students learn about “World Communities.” Students will research and explore different communities from around the world. Students learn about the geography, culture, government and economic system of each world community studied. Students bring with them knowledge about their own communities from second grade. Students will make comparisons across time and space, examining the different world communities and their cultures.

Students are introduced to the concepts of prejudice, discrimination and human rights, as well as to social action. Students will study the United States, China and Kenya. These communities represent different regions of the world, types of communities (urban, suburban, and rural), governmental structures and economic systems. Students will also explore and research a community of their choice to compare and contrast the culture, government, economy and geography with the communities studied in class.

Health

In third grade, health class will help students learn to respect themselves and to respect others. This is an important component of health education at all grade levels.

Students will:

- Demonstrate personally and socially responsible behaviors.
- Learn to care about and respect themselves and others.
- Identify the attributes of healthy eating and regular physical activity.
- Gain basic knowledge and skills to support positive health choices and behaviors.

Physical Education

In third grade, students will participate in physical activities to improve body-space awareness, eye-hand coordination, and rhythm. The units of study for second grade are:

- Fitness
- Football
- Soccer
- Orienteering
- Floor Hockey
- Bowling
- Recreational Games
- Movement Skills/Games
- Volleyball
- Lacrosse
- Educational Gymnastics
- Track & Field
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

It is important for children to develop regular exercise habits and activities at an early age that will be continued throughout their lives. In order for your child to become truly fit, these activities need to continue beyond the school day.

Music

Third grade music students continue to develop skills in singing and playing. They read, write, play, improvise, create, and move in response to rhythms and melodies that incorporate duple and triple meter, major and minor tonalities, and explore form. Students in this grade attend an RPO concert for primary students. They learn how the different families of instruments come together to make the orchestra, and how musicians of the orchestra work together as a team to make music. Students benefit from live interaction with professional musicians, in a professional concert setting. They begin to analyze music, using music vocabulary to discuss the characteristics and expressive qualities of the music they hear, and make informed decisions about the music they choose to experience and perform.

Art

Students in third grade are able to work with greater independence and create art with more detail. They begin to learn how artists make a flat object appear three dimensional and how art can communicate feelings and convey emotions. Students expand on the art elements, creating artworks that use feeling lines, positive and negative shapes, warm and cool colors, real and implied textures, horizon lines, and use clay to create a relief sculpture. Students will analyze the crafts and art works of different cultures, including China and Kenya. They learn that different cultures use tools, mediums, and methods that are influenced by their location, climate, or society to create art with identifiable cultural characteristics.