



Third Grade Curriculum 2009-2010

Reading: McGraw Hill/SRA: *Open Court*; Houghton Mifflin: *English Workbook Plus*

The Reading program in third grade is literature-based and designed to give students the necessary tools they need, with emphasis on fluency, comprehension, writing, and research skills. The program integrates reading, writing, grammar, and spelling skills. Our reading program provides a solid foundation for building skills in phonetic decoding, fluency in reading and good comprehension by providing relevant and efficient practice. The language arts component teaches grammar, usage and mechanics and offers practice in writing in a variety of formats (narrative, story, instructional, research report, opinion and persuasive pieces) as well as practice in listening and speaking skills.

Small group and individual instruction are an important part of our reading class time. We use literature circles, encourage the habit of independent reading and extended reading with book reports, "Flashlight Reading," classroom library and school library time. Our students read widely, write frequently, and speak effectively.

Phonics: Modern Curriculum Press: *Phonics, Level C*

Our phonics program systematically teaches letter knowledge and phonemic awareness to increase fluency and improve comprehension. Phonics builds decoding skills which help students in their reading, and develops encoding skills which help students in their writing.

This program encompasses short and long vowels, consonant and vowel blends, contractions, plurals, endings, diphthongs, suffixes/prefixes, syllabication, synonyms, antonyms, and multiple word meanings.

Language Arts/Grammar: Houghton Mifflin: *English*

Our English program consists of twelve units. The first quarter's focus is sentence structure including nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, capitalization and punctuation. Second quarter's focus is writing narratives and paragraphs. Third quarter's focus is writing to explain and inform. In fourth quarter, we write to express an opinion and to persuade.

Spelling: McGraw Hill/SRA: *Spelling*

Our spelling program is organized according to specific spelling patterns, with a focus on dependable English spelling "rules". The program is sequential and systematic. It provides contextual skill development in every lesson so that students learn to spell words they use regularly rather than memorize words in isolation from context.

Religion: Harcourt: *Call To Faith*

In third grade Religion, the students will learn of God's love for them and gain a deeper understanding of their faith and the rich traditions of the Catholic Church. Students are invited to participate in the life of the church. The mission and structure of the Church are presented, with emphasis on the life giving presence of the Holy Spirit. Saints and Christian heroes are offered as role models. Activities, and prayers stress the universal nature of the Church as a sign of God's kingdom.

Lesson topics explore Jesus' role in the student's lives, and explore the Church as created by the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, marked by the Spirit, gifted by the Spirit, missionary and saintly. The emphasis on signs and wonders extends to an exploration of the sacraments, the Church's celebrations of grace incorporating God's word, God's love, belonging, healing, and service. The People of God are presented in all their different roles—friends, family, parish, diocese—and as one people who are sent.

Prayer: There will be daily prayer times using various prayer experiences, both formal and spontaneous. Formal prayers taught include: the Beatitudes, an examination of conscience, Hail Holy Queen, Apostles Creed and the rosary.

Mass: Third graders participate in a special way (reading, singing, etc.) in one of the all-school Masses and Stations of the Cross.

Social Justice: Using *The Call to Discipleship Through Justice: Service & Advocacy* curriculum, students put their faith into action, engaging in practical works of justice, service and advocacy in age appropriate ways.

Language Arts/Writer's Workshop

Writing is taught in third grade using a writer's workshop format. Mini lessons are taught on various subjects: procedures for the writing workshop, ideas for writing, the writing process, setting, matching pictures with text, writing that creates mind pictures, writing with a beginning, middle, and end. Lessons in the writing process include:

Prewriting: Students use prewriting activities (T-charts, and "what, why, how") to discover topics they know and care about. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of their purpose and the effect they have on their audience.

Rough Copy: When writing a rough draft, the focus is getting ideas down on paper. Third graders are encouraged to spell as best they can or use a dictionary for help.

Revising: Students will be encouraged to share their work for clarification and questions with their peers. They will take feedback and incorporate it into their work. Students are encouraged to underline words they think need to be spelled correctly. At this time students will also check for correct spelling and use of conventions.

Final Copy/ Publishing: Students will then copy their piece onto publishing paper. They will be required to use their best handwriting and proper writing conventions for published pieces. Students will also have the option of creating an illustration to go with their published piece.

6+1 Traits of Writing: Writing in third grade will also focus on the six traits of writing.

1. *Ideas and content:* "This is the heart of my message; my writing is full of the kinds of details that keep the reader's attention and show what is really important about my topic."
2. *Word choice:* "I picked just the right words for just the right places."
3. *Voice:* "My paper has lots of personality. It sounds different from the way anyone else writes."
4. *Organization:* "I've chosen an order that works well and makes the reader want to find out what's coming next."
5. *Sentence Fluency:* "The sentences in my paper are clear and delightful to read aloud."
6. *Conventions:* "There are few errors in my paper. It wouldn't take long to get this ready to publish."
- +1. *Presentation:* "My paper has an illustration, is neat and ready to display."

Handwriting: Proper formation of letters and spacing of letters are taught. Students begin writing in cursive. Proper handwriting is encouraged in all work.

In third grade Mathematics, students are encouraged to think in mathematical terms. Along with the reinforcement of math facts, students are engaged in higher level conceptual reasoning skills. Through hands-on activities, challenges and games, students will develop their ability to:

- Problem solve in everyday situations which develops critical thinking.
- Practice basic skills through ongoing routines and mathematical games.
- Revisit topics regularly to ensure full concept development.
- Explore a wide variety of mathematical content and apply their basic fact skills to geometry, measurement and algebra.
- Think visually, make connections between ideas, see patterns and make estimates.

The program emphasizes the following concept/skill areas:

Numeration/Number Sense: Students understand the meaning of numbers, read and write whole numbers through 1,000,000, compare, order and round numbers, and learn about place value, powers, exponents, square numbers, even and odd numbers, multiples, least common multiples, fractions, decimals and integers.

Operations and Computation: Students learn the meaning of multiplication and division in relation to addition and subtraction, and learn multiplication and division facts extended to multi-digit problems. Students work with multiplication and division in mental math and problem solving, fractions and money. Students learn mental math strategies like: estimation, think addition to subtract, use fact families, skip count, multiply in any order, use doubling, use patterns, think multiplication to divide, and multiply by 10, 100, 1000.

Fractions and Decimals: Students learn the meaning of and relationship between fractions and decimals. Students understand fractions as part of a whole/part of a set, as mixed numbers, and as equivalents. Students compare and order fractions and decimals, add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions with like denominators and study fractions and decimals in relation to money and measurements.

Data and Chance: Students collect, organize and display data using tables, charts and graphs.

Geometry: Students explore plane and solid shapes, line segments, angles and circles, congruent figures, angles, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, perimeter, circumference, area, and volume.

Measurement and Reference Frames: Students compare and estimate lengths and sizes, perimeter, area, volume, and weight. Students recognize appropriate units of measure for various items, find areas of rectangles, and use multiplication arrays, coordinate grids, thermometers and map scales to estimate distance.

Patterns, Functions and Algebra: Students find patterns on the number grid, solve “Frames-and-Arrows” puzzles having two rules, complete variations of “What’s My Rule” activities, analyze word problems, analyze strategies, and practice decision making and reasoning.

Problem Solving: Students learn strategies to help them gain confidence in tackling more complex problems, including: use a picture or diagram, use a table, make an organized list, guess and check, use or look for a pattern, work backwards, act it out/use objects, logical reasoning, make it simpler, and brainstorm.

Library & Technology

Library: Third graders visit the library weekly. Students learn about reference resources in the library and use the library to complete research reports, book reports and free reading.

Technology: Students use the classroom computers and computer lab to build their technology skills and complete projects using various software programs. The projects are integrated with other curriculum areas such as writing, math, and science. Students continue building keyboarding skills using *All the Right Type*.

Personal Safety Curriculum

The personal safety curriculum for grades K-3 focuses on teaching children basic skills designed to help them keep safe from dangerous or abusive situations. In grades 1-3, lessons include walking safety, fire safety, and gun safety. A unit on touching safety emphasizes the positive aspects of touch in children’s everyday lives. A unit on assertiveness and support seeks to increase children’s ability to stand up for themselves in an assertive, but not aggressive, way and to ask for help in difficult, uncomfortable, or dangerous situations.

Social Studies: Rand McNally: *Storypath - Celebrating Cultural Diversity: The Parade*

Units in Social Studies weave together history, geography, and civics topics. In accordance with the EALRs, WAC and the Archdiocese, Social Studies subjects will include:

People and Communities: Students learn that communities are people and places; they study people and their local government, and our nation's government. Students explore a community geography, think like a geographer, and study American culture, and the many people of a community.

Communities over Time: Students explore basic topics in US history, and study the history of a community.

People in Community: Students learn about making and selling products, and being a thoughtful consumer, including how people earn and use money, saving money, making a budget, and the importance of sharing.

States and Capitals: Students learn the names of the states and their capitals in preparation for 4th grade.

Skills: Students continue to develop chart and graph skills, citizenship skills, map and globe skills, and reading for information skills.

Specialists

Third graders meet with specialists in the following areas:

Art:	45 minutes — once a week
Music:	30 minutes — twice a week
PE:	30 minutes — twice a week
Technology:	45 minutes — once a week

Physical Education

Third grade students will monitor personal fitness. While participating in games, activities, and lead-in sports. They will demonstrate sportsmanship and apply rules and strategies.

Fitness Concepts: Students participate in and enjoy fitness games and activities that promote cardiovascular fitness, strength, and flexibility. Students begin to monitor and assess personal fitness levels and develop a fitness vocabulary.

Movement Experiences: Students participate in and enjoy games and activities that introduce and promote mature movement, manipulative skills, sequencing and patterning, and sport. Students develop a movement vocabulary reflecting grade level experience.

Responsibility: Students follows rules, use equipment appropriately and recognize safety issues. Students demonstrate cooperation and sportsmanship in games, activities, and lead-in sports; and develop a positive sportsmanship attitude and vocabulary.

Science: SRA: *Real Science*; Foss

Science in third grade builds on earlier curriculum. In accordance with the EALRs, WAC and the Archdiocese, Science subjects include:

Earth Science: Students study earth and space: eclipses, orbits, planets and constellations, Earth's composition, volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks, soil, renewable and nonrenewable resources.

Physical Science: Students explore matter, light, energy, simple machines, electricity and electromagnets.

Life Science: Students learn about organisms and their habitats, adaptations, survival, interdependence. Students study ecosystems and endangered species.

Health: Students identify muscles and bones, personal and community health issues and study safety and first aid, nutrition, minerals and vitamins.

Art

The Art curriculum in third grade will focus on a different art element each month (based on the art objectives developed by the state of Washington). Students study one or two artists monthly, examining how they use the art element in focus. Students use collage, drawing, paper maché, mosaic, sculpture, painting and additional projects to encourage creativity and skill building.

Elements of Art examined include:

Line: exploring and naming types of lines; using types of lines to make designs and compositions.

Shape/Form: identifying and making free-form shapes; exploring and naming geometric forms.

Pattern: creating patterns with line.

Color: naming the colors on the color wheel; mixing intermediate colors.

Space: identifying positive and negative shapes; using a horizon line.

Texture: creating texture using line.

Music

- Elements of music taught in third grade include beat, rhythm, form, melody, and harmony.
- Students play recorders and percussion and Orff instruments.
- Students create rhythmic and melodic compositions and simple improvisation.
- Students begin the study of the recorder, note reading and play simple duets.
- Students participate in folk dancing, and some creative choreography.
- Students sing in canon and listen to identify meter, rhythms, and different instruments.