

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION-God's Word reminds us that our faith unites us with Christ and with other Christians. By God's grace and the working of the Holy Spirit your student will experience the oneness in Christ that occurs when God's people gather around His Word in study, reflection, and prayer. Chapel services are held weekly. Devotions and prayer happen daily in the classroom.

The third grade religion curriculum teaches Bible Stories centered on a monthly theme. The themes correlate with a study of the Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Holy Communion. Students memorize Bible verses, prayers, hymns and parts of the catechism. Memory assignments are tested weekly.

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS--The Houghton Mifflin reading program provides six themes with excellent literature for our basal reading program. The emphases are on decoding longer words (phonics), vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Third grade stresses fluency in reading and becoming an independent reader. Students do monthly book reports and projects. The Accelerated Reader program provides motivation and practice in reading.

Spelling, grammar and writing skills are practiced daily. Spelling lessons review a word pattern or phonetic skill each week. Spelling tests are given weekly. Students write journal entries, letters, and stories. They practice expressive, informative, persuasive and creative writing. Students learn capitalization, punctuation, and sentence structure.

HANDWRITING- In third grade each letter is reviewed using the Zaner-Bloser method for cursive writing. By the end of the year, students use cursive writing for their work.

MATHEMATICS—Third grade builds on the understanding of place value, including numbers in the hundred thousands and beyond. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are basic operations to understand, master and use to solve problems. Students study fractions and decimals. Skills with money, time, measurement, data and graphs are reviewed and expanded. A unit of Geometry is about the concepts and vocabulary of solids, shapes, perimeter, area and volume. The concepts of Algebra are used throughout the program.

NATURAL SCIENCE- Science and Social Studies curricula give students the opportunity to practice reading informational text. Students develop their scientific inquiry skills. They ask questions and do investigations. Students learn vocabulary and use simple equipment to gather data. Communication skills are developed by describing what happened. The topics in Science support National Education Standards. Topics covered in the third grade curriculum include: **Life Science** – Parts of a Plant, Classifying Animals, Life Cycles, and Food Chains. **Earth Science** – Earth's Crust, Protecting Earth's Resources, Patterns in Earth's Atmosphere, Cycles and Patterns in Space, and Our Solar System. **Physical Science** – Changes in Matter, Mixtures, Forms of Energy, Heat and Light, and Forces and Motion.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Third grade Social Studies is centered on many real communities throughout the United States. For example, “How is Barrow, Alaska like or different from Charleston, South Carolina?” As students compare and contrast communities, they learn about size, location, geography, history, culture, government, and economics. Each chapter includes the use of tools such as maps, globes, charts, and graphs. Reading non-fiction text for main ideas, details, and cause and effect helps the student further develop reading and vocabulary skills.

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Students participate in school-wide Science or Social Studies Fair each year.
- Field Trips
- Service Projects
- Third Grade Students participate in Junior Choir.
- Students begin to play a recorder.
- Activities are developed with each student’s needs in mind so that the lesson focus may have different levels of difficulty.