

Third Grade Curriculum

Literacy

The third grade reading curriculum seeks to build upon the skills learned in the primary grades by giving students the opportunity to add more advanced reading strategies to their reading repertoire. As they move through the higher levels, their expertise with more complicated chapter books will grow. This will be accomplished through mini lessons, guided reading, small group strategy sessions, and individual conferences. As they are exposed to a wider variety of genres, students will learn to monitor, clarify, and predict as they read, leading to an in depth understanding of the text. Students will practice new skills during independent reading time and share their observations with reading partners, as another way to increase comprehension.

Writing

Through a Writer's Workshop approach, students are able to experience writing independently as well as in a group environment. During the workshop the teacher will introduce a specific craft or trait of good writing and model how to apply the technique. Through one-on-one daily conferencing with the teacher and individual writing time students develop their writing style. Students are encouraged to share their writing and always be proud of their work. A variety of writing genres will be introduced and students will use published authors as mentors.

Handwriting

For the first half of the year students will work on mastering cursive writing. The second half of the year students will be expected to complete all assignments using cursive handwriting.

Math

Through the development and understanding of place value, students will expand their knowledge of number operations including fractions and decimals. Students will broaden their understanding of time, measurement and geometric figures through application. Students gather, organize, display, and interpret graphs. Students will apply addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to their every day math repertoire. Authentic word problems will be solved using multi-step computation and logical reasoning.

Social Studies

We will begin the year studying map and globe skills. Students will learn cardinal directions, as well as how to use a map key, a map scale and a compass rose. Students develop map skills that focus on real world applications and use models in locating places of the world. They will also learn about the different regions of the United States. Students will learn about the land and how it affects the earth. Students learn how geography, climate, and natural resources have impacted the development and history of the areas through engaging, hands-on activities. Students will study life in Plymouth as well as the early West and the struggles that went along with settling our land. They will explore the relationship between colonies and their ruling countries, explain why settlers

moved to the wilderness, why pioneers moved West, the role Spain played on Western culture, and the hardships people faced traveling the Oregon and Santa Fe trail. Students will also learn about the government and laws and how technology has improved our lives today. As students explore the history, geography and democratic practices of our community, state, country, and world, they develop an understanding of themselves as individuals, as members of groups within a society and as members of a global community. Students will be assigned various projects throughout the year that coincide with our units of study.

Science

The Third grade science curriculum teaches children scientific inquiry as they learn how to ask detailed questions, make observations, and record results. By using a “hands-on” approach to scientific investigation, students explore grade appropriate units that help them obtain an understanding of the various concepts. The human body unit focuses on the skeletal, cardiovascular, and muscular systems. Life Science will include the life cycle of plants and animals, how plants and animals adapt to their environment, as well as how people affect habitats. Students will also explore endangered animals in this unit. In the Earth science unit students will learn how volcanoes and earthquakes change the earth’s surface. Students also learn about the sun, moon, and planets and to identify their position in the solar system. The largest focus in third grade is on the physical science unit, in which students study matter and its three states. Students learn to define the properties of matter such as odor, shape, size, length and temperature. Students also learn how to measure the mass and volume of matter through hands-on labs. In this unit students explore the use of simple and complex machines. They also begin to identify the operations of a lever, an inclined plane, a screw, wheel and axle, a wedge and a pulley. They will also explore electricity, light, motion and sound as forms of energy. Throughout the year several projects and or reports will be assigned to reinforce each concept.

Spanish

Students will demonstrate productive knowledge of themes learned in previous grades as well as the alphabet, community helpers, transportation, and clothing. Throughout the year, students will also learn about Hispanic culture and holidays. The language is taught with emphasis on both writing and speaking.

Chorus

All Atlanta Academy students in grades k-3 participate in the Chorus. The goals in chorus are to develop the unique voice while making music. Other goals of the program are to develop musicianship through singing, sight-reading, theory practice, and listening to, analyzing and critiquing music. The chorus performs multiple times throughout the year including Grandparent’s Day, Christmas, and Night of the Arts.

Music

This is a turning point as students begin using recorders, a simple flute-like instrument, applying the reading of musical notation to an instrument. Through this medium they continue to expand their reading, listening and creative skills. 3rd graders continue to

expand their knowledge of the recorder. They become more aware of form and style in music.

Media Center

Students continue to receive library orientation and review Media Center Behavior patterns and procedures. Classes come to the library on a weekly basis. Students learn to select, evaluate, and use various sources for information, such as encyclopedias, atlases, thesauri, newspapers, dictionaries, and the Internet. Previously learned library terms are reviewed with the addition of copyright, preface, foreword, appendix, and bibliography. Use of the library's online catalog to locate materials is expanded upon. Caldecott Awards are reviewed and Newbery Awards are introduced. Fiction and Non-fiction call numbers (Dewey Decimal System) understanding is expanded upon with students gaining an understanding of what falls in each category of numbers.

Students learn to distinguish between various fiction book genres including fantasy, historical fiction, mystery, science fiction, realistic fiction, etc.

Technology

Students spend the first quarter using the typing program "Mavis Beacon Typing Tutor". Throughout the year students are introduced to computer basics while using PCs and Apple computers. Students create cross-curriculum projects using a variety of programs. Applications include but are not limited to multimedia, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Publisher. Applications are taught in both the PC and Apple formats.

Art

Students continue to expand their knowledge of art materials, method, style and vocabulary. Students mix colors to study value, tints, shade and moods of color. They learn to express feeling and emotion through their art. They gain an understanding that many artists express themselves and their cultural identities through their artwork.

Students will begin to learn about proportions of the face and human form. Students develop an understanding of the importance of art in different time periods and cultures. They will identify and practice the styles of famous artists and categorize art as portraits, landscapes, abstracts, still life's or narrative art.

Physical Education

In third grade students to continue to master the basic skills of a variety of team sports such as soccer, capture the flag, team handball, basketball, floor hockey and lacrosse. Students begin to learn basic volleyball concepts. Circuit training is used to master skills such as: jump rope, sit-ups, catching & throwing, dribbling, and kicking. This year students participate in the President's Physical Fitness Challenge and they have the opportunity to win the President's Physical Fitness Award.