

Synopsis of What is expected in 3rd grade

Reading

In reading there are many content areas that are taught throughout the year. Students will engage in story discussions, identifying the main idea and creating summaries of each story. Other strategies taught to increase comprehension are identifying the author's purpose, making inferences and predictions, recognizing the elements of the story, comparing causes and effects, and analyzing the theme of a story. Vocabulary skills are incorporated through reading word relationships by the use of context clues, multiple meaning words, breaking words down to prefixes and suffixes, and identifying antonyms and synonyms for better understanding of unfamiliar words.

Math

The primary focus of third grade math is to utilize computation skills and number sense to analyze and evaluate word problems. Students will use their skills in addition and subtraction to learn new skills in multiplication, division, and fractions. Other key focus areas that students will learn are data analysis and geometric shapes.

Language Arts

In Language Arts, third graders will develop a love of writing through instruction in narrative, expository, and persuasive writing. Students will be given several writing prompts throughout the year and will be required to create *Thinking Maps* relating to their writing, construct rough drafts, edit, and publish finished writing samples. When students are practicing this format of writing they will incorporate new skills in grammar, punctuation, styles of writing, and how to make their writing appealing to the reader. Students will be required to practice spelling independently outside of school, and use dictionary skills when they do not know how to spell a word.

Science

Science will prepare students to make hypothesis about energy and motion, animals, and plants. Students will conduct experiments to make observations, collect data, and formulate conclusions.

Social Studies

Communities are a key focus of the Social Studies unit. Students will learn how communities and governments, such as the United States, were created and how people of our country and others have created the path for our current ways of life.

Testing

As part of third grade, students will learn test taking strategies such as how to go back in a passage to find supporting details for answer choices. Students will learn how to eliminate choices in a multiple choice answer selection format and how to determine the important parts of a question. Students will be required to show their work in mathematical problems and will learn how to create a model of the so they are able to explain their answer. Students will be able to answer questions in complete sentences using the question as part of the answer.