Parent Guide to Your Child's Third Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

Your third-grade child's view is growing to include self, peers, and finally adults. He or she is interested in the broader community. Your child will continue learning about the 4 pillars of the Catholic faith: Creed, Sacraments, Christian Living, and Prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- People are created and sustained by God
- The beliefs of the Church
- The Sacraments of Initiation and service
- Human dignity and interaction including social justice
- The origin of prayer and ways to pray

English Language Arts & Literacy

Third grade is a pivotal year for your child. Learning to read with fluency and confidence will serve as a foundation for the reading demands in later grades. By practicing with learning-to-read strategies, your child will reliably be able to make sense of multi-syllable words in books. He or she will come to appreciate that words have meanings that are not literal (e.g., a piece of cake) and have relationships to other words (e.g., company and companion). Recognizing and understanding words will help your child read increasingly challenging stories and books and build knowledge about the world around him or her. By the end of the year, your child also will be writing clear sentences and paragraphs on a range of topics, drawing on and expanding vocabulary.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story
- Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (e.g., first, second, third; cause and effect)
- Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic

- Writing opinions or explanations that group related information and develop topics with facts and details
- Writing stories that establish a situation and include details and clear sequences of events that describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters
- Independently conducting short research projects that build knowledge about various topics
- Asking and answering questions about information he or she hears from a speaker or while participating in classroom discussions, offering appropriate elaboration and detail that build on what others have said
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguishing the literal and nonliteral meanings of words, such as something's fishy and cold shoulder
- Spelling correctly and consulting dictionaries to clarify meanings of words

Mathematics

In third grade, your child will learn important new ideas and gain important new skills. Two of the most important topics this year are multiplication and division. Others are multiplication, division, and fractions which are the building blocks for many life skills that students will learn in later grades, such as percentages. Students also need to master these topics to be ready for algebra and advanced math, so it is essential to get a good start with these topics in third grade.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Multiplying and dividing up to 10 × 10 quickly and accurately, including knowing the times tables from memory
- Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit (e.g., multiplying 9 × 80)
- Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers (e.g., recognizing that 3⁄1 and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring and estimating weights and liquid volumes, and solving word problems involving these quantities
- Reasoning about shapes (e.g., all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares)
- Finding areas of shapes, and relating area to multiplication (e.g., why is the number of square feet for a 9-foot by 7-foot room given by the product 9 × 7?)

Science

In the third grade your child will become more familiar with the scientific process and engage in working in a group to design a procedure to answer a science question. They will begin to keep a formal record of their questions and procedures they have developed. After sharing them with their class, they will learn how to give positive critiques to each other. Familiarity with the basic tools of science for observation, measurement, and experiments with solids and liquids will be part of the science processes.

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A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Identify the variable that effect forces and motion in nature including size, weight, friction and direction
- Investigate the effect of electric and magnetic forces on objects or pairs of objects
- Define and observe the interactions of an ecosystem – what composes the systems and how it meets the needs of the plants and animals in it
- Identify the effect of changes in the ecosystems on the inhabitants and how they are required to adapt for survival. These changes can result in natural selection of the species
- Observe the life cycles of plants and animals and how they reproduce to pass those traits on to future generations
- Investigate weather and climate and the factors that determine both
- Research and/or observe a variety of natural disasters and the role of humans

Social Studies

In grade three, the program continues to build on the primary experience of community, of family and local community and expands the program to now include communities around the world. It is safe to say that most children do not have a first-hand experience of the communities they will study but now that they have had 3 years' experience using the sub-disciplines to study what they do know, they will now be challenged to apply them to communities that they do not know.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Identify and explain creation and authorship for materials use. Begin to make note of inference, use of arguments and point of view
- Distinguish between primary and secondary sources
- Begin using precise language to distinguish time such as years, decades and centuries
- Identify a world region by describing a characteristic the places have in common
- Recognize the relationship between geography, economics and history in a world community
- Describe how human activities affect the environment of the world community and how the environment of the world community affects human activity
- Identify the variety of resources available in a particular world community used to produce goods or provide services
- Identify opportunities and the role of the individual in social and political participation in the school, local community and the world community
- Explore the geography, culture, government, how they make money and spend it and what is unique to their history as compared to their own

Physical Education

Your third-grade child has well established motor skills and enjoys physical activities. He or she has the strength and stability to master new activities. The focus of the physical education program is on the development of motor skills, a variety of movements, and the connection between physical activity and good health. It also incorporates participation with respect for oneself and others.

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A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Leaping using a mature pattern
- Performing teacher selected and developmentally appropriate dance steps and movement patterns
- Dribbles and travels in general space at slow to moderate jogging speed, with control of ball and body
- Passing and receiving with feet
- Striking an object with a short-handled implement, wending it forward over a low net or to a wall
- Applies simple strategies and tactics in chasing and fleeing activities
- Recognizes the importance of warm-up and cool-down relative to vigorous physical activity
- Works cooperatively with others and is conscious of safety in physical activity settings

Music

The music program for third grade focuses on deepening your child's understanding of music performance and the relationships between music and daily life.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Demonstrating musical intent by describing dynamics and tempo, rhythmic patterns, and melodic phrasing
- Describing how personal and social context can influence a performance
- Perform music with decorum, expression and technical accuracy
- Exhibit audience etiquette appropriate for the venue

Art

Third grade art shifts to student production of art based on prior knowledge of the elements of art and materials. Emphasis on the connection of imagination and ideas in a real-world context is a major part of the third-grade art experience.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 3rd Grade

- Developing artwork based on observations of their surroundings
- Creating personally satisfying artwork using a variety of art materials and processes
- Applying personal knowledge of resources, tools and technology to investigate personal ideas using the art-making process