

MTV Third Grade Curriculum



Welcome families! We look forward to working with you and your child for a successful school year. Below we have highlighted the third grade program.

Language Arts



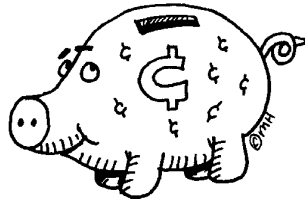
Reading: Our reading program, *Journeys*, is published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and is currently used in grades 3-5. This is a wonderful collection of both fictional and non-fictional stories that integrates spelling, grammar, writing, and phonics. In addition to the hardcover reading book, workbooks, and independent reading selections, parents will be able to access online interactive activities, stories, and videos stressing vocabulary development, comprehension, and reading strategies. In addition to our reading program, students will be introduced to additional picture books and a few of our favorite chapter books this year.

Students are strongly encouraged to read for at least fifteen minutes each night. Nightly reading can include children reading independently, parents reading to their children, or a combination of the two.

Spelling: A pretest of weekly words is given on the first day of the school week, with the test given on the last day of the school week. This test will include weekly words as well as review words from previous lessons. Optional spelling challenge lists are also provided.

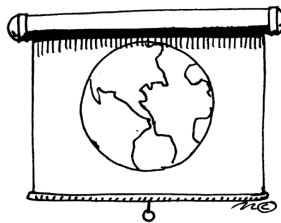
Writing & Grammar: The opportunity to teach writing exists in all areas of study. Creative writing, poetry, journaling, responses to literature, and reports are some of the forms our writing will take. We will use different prewriting strategies to help generate ideas and organize our writing. Writing components will focus on the *Six Traits of Writing*.

Math



Our district purchased a series called *enVisions 2.0*. This series includes problem-based interactive learning activities that build a concrete understanding of math concepts. Domains include, but are not limited to, operations and algebraic thinking, fractions, measurement, and geometry. **It is expected that math facts be memorized as we will be spending a great deal of time with multiplication and division.** Flashcard style works well, but we will also be introducing students to games that reinforce facts. Tests follow each unit with quizzes and homework providing additional means of evaluation. Homework will generally be assigned Monday through Thursday.

Social Studies



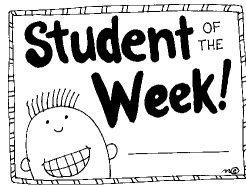
Our Social Studies program is published by Savvas and is called *My World Interactive*. Our topics include lessons on the environment, communities, government, economics, citizenship, maps, landmarks, and more. Tests follow each unit of study. The format of these tests is typically multiple choice along with a writing response. Third grade students need to practice organizing their thoughts and writing answers to essay style questions. We will help them with this skill. At this age, students generally do not know how to study alone. We will provide you with a study guide to help them prepare for these tests.

Science



Our district has adopted the Next Generation Science Standards. Each grade level (K-5) was provided two topics to cover throughout the year. In third grade our topics include *Motion and Matter* and *Structures of Life*. These topics are covered in depth through our FOSS Science program. FOSS (Full Option Science System) is a research-based science curriculum for grades K—8. Foss kits are highly interactive and include active investigations, science notebooks to answer focus questions, and assessments that monitor progress and motivate student reflection on learning. Quizzes may be given periodically throughout the lessons to check for understanding. Tests will generally follow each unit. This program will be supplemented with EIE (Engineering is Elementary). EIE is an inquiry based STEM curriculum that promotes critical thinking and reasoning skills. The unit we are piloting is called *Thinking-inside-box-designing-plant-packages*.

Character Education



Formal character education classes will take place each week and will focus on the Pillars of Good Character beginning with respect and school safety. Additional classroom activities will follow each lesson to promote a positive school environment.

Extra, Extra, Read All About It!

Our district has purchased three additional online learning platforms for us to use with our students. Seesaw can empower students to create, reflect, share, and collaborate. Students “show what they know” using photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. Nearpod offers award-winning K-12 interactive lessons, videos, and formative assessments and is built for both **school**-based and distance learning. IXL offers students a chance to practice specific skills in all areas of the curriculum.

A Typical Third Grade Day Includes:

Opening Exercises: "Do Now" Activity, Attendance, Announcements, Flag Salute

Math

Math/Learning Centers/Health & Snack Break

Reading

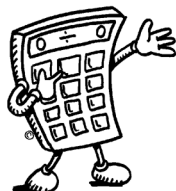
Grammar/Spelling

Specials: Physical Education (2 times), Music, Art, Technology, Library

Science or Social Studies

Agenda Books and Preparing for Dismissal

Accelerated Math/PACT Programs



Although these programs do not begin until fourth grade we feel it is necessary to mention the parameters for selection in the beginning of the third grade year. This will eliminate any last minute concerns at the end of the year when the selection process is completed. As outlined in your Mountview Road School folder, the tests that your child takes in third grade (New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge and Test of Cognitive Skills-TCS) have a significant impact on your child's selection for these programs. Each program has a different minimum score for the test. **Although we, as teachers, do have some say in the final selection process, teacher recommendation alone does not decide inclusion in the programs.**

A Note About Testing



We cannot stress enough the importance of not overemphasizing tests to your child. Typically, the children who approach tests with moderate concern and intensity score better than those who panic about what will happen if they don't score well. The third grade curriculum prepares your child for the tests. We do our best to prepare for these tests, and we ask you and your child to simply do his/her best and not to overemphasize the test results. Tests and quizzes are one way to assess a student's understanding of a chapter or concept. While they may sometimes seem scary, they serve as an important part of a teacher's evaluation process and help answer many questions (Can we move on? Do I need to review? Does extra support need to be provided to a student?). Tests will be announced with plenty of time to prepare. Third graders will need to be taught how to study and should always study with an adult.

Our Grading Scale

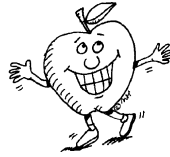
A+	99-100
A	92-98
A-	90-91
B+	88-89
B	82-87
B-	80-81
C+	78-79
C	72-77
C-	70-71
D+	68-69
D	65-67
NP	64 and below

Grade 3 Homework Guidelines:

- Administrative Guidelines from the Office of the Superintendent recommend that each third grade student spend **approximately 30 minutes each night on homework**. This includes the reading time. These time limits may vary depending on the teacher's evaluation of the needs of his/her students. Please also keep in mind that students are individuals and work at different speeds. Studying time for tests and projects need to be taken into consideration.
- Homework should reflect the same standards required of class work. It must be neat, clearly written, and include the student's name. **If a child does not understand the concept after you've assisted him/her, please attach a note to the paper.**
- **Students are responsible for copying their daily homework in an agenda book.** Homework assignments will be discussed and written on the board.
- When students forget a homework assignment, they will be given an "OOPS, I forgot" and will be required to complete the missed assignment.
- Third graders are also expected to study their spelling words as needed to prepare for end of the week tests. In addition, students will need to practice their math facts.
- Reading is very important to learning. **We strongly encourage nightly reading for 15 minutes or more.**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your enthusiasm, cooperation, and support at home. Let's keep the lines of communication between home and school open and have a wonderful year!

Helping at Home



1. Use flashcards for 5-10 minutes on a daily routine. Divide flashcards into 3 piles: facts that are memorized, facts that we can get after some thought, and facts that seem to stump us.
2. Write those facts that seem to stump on a sticky post-it note and “post-it” on the door, refrigerator, mirror, closet, counter, etc.
3. War Addition: Using a deck of cards, deal two cards to each player face down. Add or multiply the cards and whoever has the highest total collects the other player’s cards.
4. Play again one card at a time with the fastest answer winning the cards.
5. Brainstorm a Number: Pick a number and write it in the middle of a piece of paper. Circle the number and think of as many ways to make that number that you can.
6. Concentration: Have your child write facts on index cards and answers on separate index cards. Turn over all of the cards and play concentration by matching facts with answers.

Everyday Activities to Improve Language Skills

1. Ask your child about his or her day and to share work in their folders.
2. Have a discussion after reading a book or watching a TV program or movie.
3. Encourage curiosity. Turn everyday activities into discussion topics.
4. Think out loud.
5. Play with words.

Thank you for attending Back to School Night! I look forward to a rewarding and successful year as your child’s third grade teacher.