

## Third Grade

- **Language Arts –**

English: Third graders study sentences, subject/verb agreement, punctuation, subjects and predicates, adjectives and adverbs. We write descriptive paragraphs with topic and supporting sentences. We practice using past, present and future tense, and maintaining tense in our written work. Students learn to question, research, and write informative reports. Complete sentences, correct grammar, and punctuation are emphasized. Students are taught to consider the anticipated reader and how to help the reader see, hear, and experience the information being shared. Third graders write persuasive letters and clear, concise directions. A class newsletter is written weekly.

Reading: Strategies are used to develop and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, use of context clues, cause and effect, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, predicting outcome, conclusions, and recognizing author's purpose. The textbook is Literature Works. Trade books include Esio Trot by Roald Dahl, Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen, My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett, and Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan. Reading outside the classroom is encouraged and required.

Spelling: Spelling strategies are used to teach vowel/consonant sounds, digraphs and clusters. Spelling lists include words with the pattern being studied. Correct spelling is reinforced in daily assignments.

- **Math** - Third graders study place value, money, addition and subtraction with renaming, time, and measurement. Students focus on multiplication and division facts and knowing the fact families. These skills are used in computation. Problem solving strategies are taught and practiced throughout the year. Fractions, decimals, and geometry are introduced.
- **Religion** - The third grade religion classes focus on "We are the Church". Study includes Jesus on earth, God's love, the power of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the early Church. We study the Church Year, our membership in the Church, Marks of the Church, and the parish as our home where we serve, worship, and care for others. We study the Mass and the Sacraments. Third graders learn about the Easter Season and our call to discipleship and pray the rosary.

Steps to Respect is introduced to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program integrates bullying prevention into academics with various activities for all subject areas.

- **Science** – The students learn about plant and animal life. They observe and record data, charts, and information on vertebrate and invertebrate animals. Ecosystems and habitats are studied. Students complete units on the human body and speed, motion, energy, and simple machines. Earth Science includes study of rocks, minerals, soil, and landforms. Activities and labs are used in the studies.
- **Social Studies** – Social Studies work includes communities, their similarities and differences, and learning to read and use maps. We learn about renewable and nonrenewable resources. Third graders study national government, citizenship, and the election process. Students learn about the communities in which they reside, their local and state government. Students write to those who represent them in local government and receive responses. The citizenship test given to naturalized citizens is studied and students take the test. Third graders also study communities around the world and learn that each of us is a world citizen. Students also participate in “Here’s Looking at You”, a program based on reducing children’s risky behaviors and promoting children’s healthy behaviors.
- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, value) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. They will continue to also build on the principles of design (balance, pattern, contrast, rhythm). The projects will reflect cultures some of which are German, Dutch, Native American, Japanese, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - Physical Education for the intermediate level works with the mature form of the basic skills and gears them towards the sport specific skills. We take the knowledge learned and use this to improve one’s own physical and mental well-being. Offense and defense strategies are worked on along with social skills with the use of good sportsmanship.
- **Vocal Music** – Students will review and expand upon all notes, rests, musical terms, musical instruments, and musical rhythms that have been learned thus far. We will review and expand upon note addition and the letters of the treble staff. We will review and expand upon correct singing practices (posture, memorization, etc). We will begin to sort instruments in to their instrument families. In the third quarter, we will be learning to play the recorder. Students will be writing their own short melodies and, of course, singing a wide variety of songs and listening to a wide variety of music.
- **Spanish** - Now that your third grader has learned all kinds of vocabulary, like greetings, weather, colors, days of the week, months of the year, body parts, school supplies, animals, foods, and some things around the house, we’ll be able to start adding even more!! We will be reviewing all of the previously learned vocabulary and adding more foods, family, clothing, and accessories.

- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

Third grade utilizes technology: During 2<sup>nd</sup> semester keyboarding is introduced using Ultra Key software. The emphasis is on proper technique and repetition of learning the keyboard. Also, at this time the student is provided their own user name and password to access the school computers. Students use a variety of internet sites to complement the curriculum and for creation of word processing documents with Microsoft Word.