

First Assembly Christian School Third Grade Curriculum

Language

Our language program reinforces the parts of speech, such as nouns, pronouns, actions, and linking verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, homophones, synonyms, and antonyms. It also provides clear instruction in and application of grammar mechanics and punctuation through Daily Oral Language. Students also increase their oral language skills through telling stories, dramatization, oral reports, sharing opinions, interviews, peer conferencing, and voice and speech techniques. Each student follows the five-step writing process to create a friendly letter, a narrative story, and an informative paragraph. An additional feature of the program is the multitude of genres we study – like poetry, plays, fables, tall tales, essays, personal narratives and journals. Students also practice study skills such as note taking, using resources such as the library, dictionary, thesaurus, and encyclopedia, and by summarizing, outlining and organizing information. Students use all of these skills when they complete various research projects in science and history.

Text: English – Houghton Mifflin, Daily Oral Language 3 – McDougal-Little & Co.

Literature

Literature is taught using a comprehensive approach. By reading a variety of informative and entertaining novels, the students improve their comprehension, learn to infer, draw conclusions, make comparisons, identify cause and effect relationships, make accurate predictions, expand their vocabulary, analyze complex characters, identify plots, and develop a love for reading. Our literature study includes a variety of genres, such as short stories, fables, tall tales, fiction novels, poetry and biographies. In addition, students deepen their appreciation for good literature by listening to novels read aloud by the teacher. We also use *Accelerated Reader* to enhance our literature program. Accelerated Reader gives our students the opportunity to customize their reading and to take computerized comprehension tests based on their individual reading level.

Text: Literature Works – Silver-Burdett, Student Reading Assessments- Hooked on Phonics, God's World (current events magazine)

Spelling

Our spelling program is based on a list of the 1200 most frequently used words in the English language. The instructional approach is patterned after reading instruction strategies: teaching words in context rather than isolation, applying skills in a variety of settings, teaching the skills within the student's own writing, making it relevant and important to the student. Our goal is to effect life long mastery that carries over into all settings and writing environments. We begin with the high frequency "core" words. Activities are designed to develop visual skills and long term retention skills. Students are taught to apply in real writing situations the spelling strategies, rules and skills they learn. They will be held accountable for spelling these "priority" words correctly, every time they write them – in every subject.

Text: Rebecca Sitton's Spelling Sourcebooks

Handwriting

The third grade handwriting curriculum provides daily instruction and practice for excellent cursive penmanship. Students practice correct formation, spacing, letter size, slant, and proportion as well as overall neatness. The curriculum also gives opportunities to review phonics, copy Scripture, and use the dictionary.

Text: Cursive Writing Skillbook – A Beka

Math

The goal of this program is to make math fun, important, and relevant to the children. Students are encouraged to arrive at their own preferred ways of performing computation, and then share solution strategies with their classmates through a cooperative learning approach. Mathematical thinking stories allow students to discover their own capacity for reasoning. Math manipulatives are used in special activities that serve to reinforce problem-solving techniques. The use of games is vital to the development and reinforcement of skills and concepts. Multiple ways of representing numbers and specific skill practice in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division make up a significant part of a student's math experience. Exercises that build a positive attitude toward math and which encourage mastery of skills involving estimation, measurement, graphing, place-value, geometry, money, and the

relationship of fractions to decimals are numerous. Instruction in calculator skills further enriches the grade three program.

Text: Math 3 – Scott Foresman, Math The Fun Way (stories and activities)

Science (1 semester)

Beginning with the most special part of God's creation – man, third graders learn about the human body, with an emphasis on the sense organs and how they work. Students then explore the world of plants and later, the world of animals. They become familiar with invertebrates and vertebrates and how to classify them. Students "visit" the ocean, desert, pond, forest and field; weather, magnetism and electricity are also included.

Text: Exploring God's World – A Beka

Social Studies (1 semester)

The third grade program surveys American history from a Christian perspective through chronologically arranged biographies of great Americans. The emphasis is on patriotism, character development, and the variety of contributions made by Americans to this country. Pocahontas, William Penn, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Clara Barton, and George Washington Carver are a few of the personalities the children "meet." One of the highlights of 3rd grade is reading a biography, writing a paper and becoming the person in a Wax Museum. Students also learn basic facts of geography by locating the seven continents, European countries and capitals with a focus on Ireland. After studying Ireland, the class selects one country to research on their own and present to the class. Throughout the year we study Ireland's culture, traditions, history, and St. Patrick, a British missionary.

Text: Our American Heritage – A Beka, St. Patrick's Day by Dorothy Freeman

Bible

All third graders enjoy daily devotions. The devotions are Biblically –based mini-lessons with an emphasis on understanding who Jesus Christ is and how we can become more like Him in our own live. Weekly memory verses encourage students to read their Bibles and support major themes studied. Time is set aside for the discussion of praise reports and prayer requests, and students learn to become prayer leaders. The students attend chapel each Friday to worship the Lord.

Text: ACSI Bible Curriculum, The Gospel According to St. Bernard – Christian Video Enterprises, Inc., Animals That Show And Tell – Coleman, 365 Devotions for Kids – Tyndale House

Music

Third grade students practice good singing posture and technique as they sing songs from America and other countries. They will use their acquired reading skills to learn about songs of praise and worship. They will learn to accompany their own singing with pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments. They explore dances from several countries and create their own dances. Listening selections are used to reinforce new musical concepts such as melodic interval, texture in harmony, and tone color.

Art

In third grade, the Art I curriculum is based on the elements and principles of design. Students will develop their knowledge and skill as they study differences in forms, lines, colors, values, textures, space, balance, contrast, and repetition. They will use different materials and develop their technique in applying media.

Media

Third grade students have the opportunity to visit the Media center twice a week. This class allows students to check out books from the library, learn library skills, become familiar with all kinds of literature, research topics for classroom projects, take Accelerated Reading quizzes, and work on technology skills. Students learn basic keyboarding and operational skills. Students also use computer software and activities to reinforce educational skills introduced in the classroom.

Physical Education

Students work with the physical education teacher on a regular basis throughout the week. Sportsmanship as well as developmentally appropriate skills are practiced.

Spanish

Students begin this course in the 2nd grade and complete it by the 8th grade. Its purpose is to expose the student to basic reading, writing, oral, and listening skills in Spanish. Upon completion, students will be able to take Spanish II in their freshman year of high school. Emphasis is placed on students acquiring a working knowledge of the language to assist in their transition into high school.

Text: Realidades 1 – Prentice Hall