

GRADE THREE CURRICULUM GUIDE



This booklet contains an outline of the instructional goals in each curricular area for third grade students at St. Joseph School. The topics are covered in a sequence that is responsive to the individual class of students. Overall, the philosophy of St. Joseph School emphasizes that learning is integrated, experiential, value-based and a foundation for continued and lifelong learning. Learning is designed to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical and emotional growth of each unique child.

RELIGION

The Church is the focus of study in third grade. The religion program looks at God's gifts to us, our appreciation of those gifts and developing a sense of self-value and affirmation of others as essential components of God's creation.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Religion program. Students will be able to:

- Understand and appreciate the four marks of the Church—that it is one, holy, Catholic and apostolic
- Discuss central ideas of the Catholic faith: our beliefs about God, the Father, Jesus his son and the Holy Spirit
- Appreciate and understand the Church's moral principles, which include Jesus' commandment to love, the Ten Commandments, the Corporal and Spiritual works of mercy
- Appreciate prayer as a means of communication, conversation and dialogue with God
- Investigate more fully the sacraments of initiation, healing and vocation, and what they mean to Catholics
- Understand the Church's ministries of community, worship and of service

Text: [This is Our Faith](#), Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998

LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE

The students continue to practice effective listening and speaking skills, which are emphasized and reinforced in each curricular area. Students will continue to increase their effective speaking and writing activities. Cursive handwriting is reinforced and applied to daily work and homework assignments.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Language Arts/Literature program:

- Use the 5-step writing process - prewrite, draft, revise, edit and publish/share
- Determine theme, character, setting, plot, tone and conflict in literary selections
- Understand the meaning of word parts - prefixes, suffixes and roots
- Review parts of speech - nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs
- Review grammar mechanics - capitalization and punctuation
- Write and illustrate a personal narrative
- Write narrative, expository, and persuasive paragraphs using the 5-step writing process
- Extend length of reading passages in fiction and nonfiction works, demonstrating comprehension, analysis and prediction by using description, compare/contrast, cause and effect, and sequence
- Identify definitive features of literary forms, such as, realistic, historical fiction, fantasy, biography, poetry and plays

- Present monthly written book reports orally using correct language and nonverbal expressions
- Use effective listening and speaking skills, which are emphasized and reinforced in each curricular area
- Expand personal vocabulary, written and oral, to increase effectiveness of communication
- Apply pronoun/antecedent rule to written work
- Edit writing to increase use of effective nouns, strong verbs, colorful adjectives and descriptive adverbs
- Students will be able to write down at least fifteen facts on one topic found in non-fiction materials, then subsequently organize these facts into subtopics, resulting in a final, edited written research report which includes at least one source cited correctly

Text: Literature Works, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1997
Voyages in English, Loyola Press, 1999

MATHEMATICS

The third grade student is expected to know basic addition and subtraction facts. During the year, emphasis is placed on the mastery of basic multiplication and division facts. Students will be able to solve simple word problems, covering all four basic operations.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Mathematics program:

- Read, construct and analyze graphs and solve problems based on interpretations of the graphs
- Learn and apply basic multiplication skills to problem solving activities by multiplying up to 4 digit numbers by 1 digit
- Learn and apply basic division skills to problem solving activities by dividing with basic facts and remainders
- Compare, order and estimate numbers of various place values to decimals and whole numbers
- Tell time to the nearest minute and find elapsed time using analog and digital methods
- Identify equal parts of a whole, estimate fractional parts, explore equivalent fractions and compare and order fractions
- Understand and use different units of linear measurement, English and metric
- Construct addition and subtraction number sentences using whole numbers (up to four digits)
- Construct addition and subtraction number sentences using money
- Compare three dimensional geometric figures - cube, cone, prism and sphere

- Compare geometric figures and determine their properties, including parallel, congruent and line symmetry
- Explore decimals and metrics
- Develop problem solving strategies
- Construct lines and angles
- Learn the metric measurement system
- Formulate questions of interest, select appropriate methods to collect data, draw conclusions and interpret the results based on the data gathered
- Communicate the method selected, justify the conclusion drawn and predict future outcomes
- Learn about probability, explore likelihood and fairness and test predictions
- Use variables to describe general rules
- Solve simple equations with an unknown quantity for the value or by using the substitution method
- Write an algebraic expression using variables to describe a pattern

Text: McGraw-Hill Math, 2002

SOCIAL STUDIES

The focus of the third grade social studies curriculum is to develop an awareness of and an appreciation for multicultural and diverse communities. Map, chart and globe skills are applied in order to understand the location and geography of the continents and the United States.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Social Studies program:

- Learn the different types of communities in the United States - rural, urban, suburban
- Understand how a community's history tells how it has grown and how it changes over time
- Understand the three levels of government in the United States - local, state and federal
- Learn at every level of government how citizens take part in government
- Recognize that the United States Constitution is the basis for making laws
- Recognize that the location, climate and natural resources of a community drew early settlers
- Understand the products that a community produces and connection between various environments and differing products
- Identify major current political events and leaders
- Understand how key individuals have contributed to the development of the United States
- Recognize that communities grow and change both in the United States and other countries due to significant economic events (i.e. early colonies, Plymouth colony, Gold Rush of Northern California and Beijing, China)

- Describe the various individual motives for settling in colonial America
- Describe the ways in which participation in the westward movement affected communities, including Illinois
- Identify landforms, bodies of water and climate and natural resources that influence how and where communities develop in different geographic locations (i.e. Plymouth colony and San Francisco)
- Compare landforms, bodies of water, weather and climate by using maps and the other geographic representations and instruments
- Understand latitude, longitude, prime meridian, compass rose, scale, and map legend in order to interpret a map
- Analyze a topographic, political and physical map
- Construct a map of St. Joseph cemetery using correct orientation and scale
- Explain ways in which language, folktales, music and art serve as expressions of culture
- Describe ways in which institutions meet the needs of society
- Explain how changes in the production of goods and populations cause developments of cultures and institutions
- Investigate different cultures, identifying language, music, art and folktales
- Define culture and explain elements that are part of culture

Text: Communities Near and Far, MacMillan/McGraw Hill, 1995

SCIENCE

The third grade science curriculum expands on the scientific method of investigation employed in previous years. The topics covered are: life cycles, roles of living things, form of energy, the solar system, water cycle and nutrition.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Science program. Students will be able to:

Scientific Method and Experimental Procedures

- Use the scientific method to conduct experiments and solve problems.
- Formulate questions of interest and select methods to collect data, then interpret the results based on the data gathered
- Write laboratory reports based on classroom experiments, provide observations, data collection, representation of data (graph, diagrams) and conclusions
- Learn about probability by exploring likelihood and fairness
- Make and test predictions

Forms of Energy

- Investigate forms of energy - heat, mechanical, electrical, light, sound and chemical
- Discover how energy interacts with matter
- Learn that energy changes from one form to another form, often releasing heat energy

Life Science

- Learn about life cycles of animals from the first stage of life
- Study the ways animals care for their young
- Learn incomplete and complete metamorphic life cycles of insects from egg to adult
- Describe the life cycles of plants and how they respond to their environment
- List and explain the elements necessary for plant growth

Space Science

- Compare and contrast bodies in the solar system – sun, earth and its moon and the planets
- Identify recognizable constellations – Big Dipper, Little Dipper, Orion, Leo and Cassiopeia
- Understand the importance of a star, such as Polaris, found in the Little Dipper or Ursa Minor constellation
- Learn patterns in the solar system – order of planets, moon phases, eclipses and seasons related to the Earth's tilt

Earth Science

- Learn location of water sources such as aquifers
- Understand and be able to diagram the water cycle
- Investigate what happens to water in pipes, harmful elements in water, water treatment and water pollution
- Identify and classify recyclable materials
- Compare and contrast the properties of solids, liquids and gases

Health and Human Body

- Understand the different nutrients needed for a healthy body and how they are used in the human body
- List foods that contain necessary nutrients
- Demonstrate healthy nutrition via a month's menus and healthy lunch and snack during the school day - breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack
- Analyze what makes up a healthy diet by using the number of servings according to the food pyramid
- Understand ways to keep food from spoiling and how to handle food
- Investigate how the digestive process works
- Investigate and understand the different kinds of human teeth - their uses and dental hygiene

Text: McGraw-Hill Science, 2002

FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH

The third grade foreign language program continues to develop and build on language skills learned in the previous levels. The Spanish program is flexible to adjust to different levels of competency among the students. Catholic prayers and traditions are incorporated in keeping with the religious nature of the school.

The program goals are to:

- Develop and increase listening abilities
- Increase word recognition
- Develop spoken language skills

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Spanish program. The student will be able to:

- State his or her name to another person
- Use greetings and farewells
- Identify 6 classroom objects
- Identify basic shapes
- Identify 10 colors
- Know numbers 0 to 100
- Identify 10 fruits
- Identify everyday foods
- State likes and dislikes (me gusta) with learned vocabulary
- Recognize domestic animals and zoo animals
- Create short sentences – include animals, fruits and color
- Learn three Spanish songs

- Know parts of the body
- Recognize immediate family members
- Create a family tree
- Recognize months and weather expressions for each month
- Start simple questions
- Recognize days of the week
- Recognize the Spanish alphabet
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Recite the Hail Mary
- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance in Spanish
- Recognize basic language patterns - forms of address, questions, case
- Respond appropriately to simple commands
- Respond to and ask simple questions with prompts
- Imitate pronunciation, intonation and inflection
- Recognize the written form of familiar spoken language and predict meaning of key words in a simple story, poem or song
- Infer meaning of some cognates from context
- Copy and write words, phrases and simple sentences

Text: Viva El Espanol, Learning System A Workbook,
Contemporary Publishing, 1992

FINE ARTS - MUSIC

In third grade music class, the basic concepts of music are extended to the next level. What do you hear when you listen to music? Do you hear melody, rhythm, a particular instrument, perhaps lyrics? How music is put together and how and why we respond to it is our focus in third grade.

In third grade, students are involved in two music programs that are presented to school families and the community. Students are involved in these programs on many levels. The goal of these programs is to encourage students to share their talents in a unified group endeavor that displays pride in our school, personal pride and magnifies the values of our Christian community.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Music program:

- Rhythm in groups of two and three
- Melodic patterns
- Style
- Ostinato compositions
- Set poems to music
- Respond to rhythmic patterns
- Rhythmic dictation
- Note values
- Composers
- Tone color
- Pentatonic scale
- Music for liturgical celebrations

Text: The Music Connection, Silver Burdett Ginn, 1998

FINE ARTS - ART

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Art program. Students will be able to:

- Identify the media and the tool(s) used in a painting, drawing and construction
- Demonstrate how to use the media and tool(s) in a safe manner - painting, drawing and constructing
- Experiment with warm and cool colors
- Draw with watercolor markers, oil pastels - thick, thin, continuous and broken lines
- Use crayons to create rubbings from textured objects on surfaces
- Use brayers to create a surface on which to do monoprints
- Manipulate wire or coat hangers by bending, twisting, and joining to construct a sculpture
- Design a collage/assemblage with textured paper and fabric
- Manipulate materials to express a mood and an idea
- Create an artwork that contrasts elements (textures, values, colors and shapes)
- Use the imagination to express abstract compositions
- Identify the elements of color contrasts, types of lines, shapes, textures and space
- Identify the principles of balance and contrast

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

An effective physical education curriculum incorporates many aspects of physical, emotional, social, and personal growth. The program includes the following components:

- 1) Emphasize the child as a whole person and exercise the mind as well as the body
- 2) Utilize a variety of learning strategies
- 3) Emphasize core skills, such as locomotion, throwing and catching
- 4) Emphasize the development of lifelong physical fitness
- 5) Demonstrate that good sportsmanship and cooperation as fundamental core values
- 6) Emphasize participation in all sports – individual as well as team

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Physical Education program. Students will be able to:

- Chase, flee, and dodge particularly in regard to stationary objects and moving people
- Kick and dribble a ball
 - Dribble around stationary and moving object
 - Kick a moving and stationary ball
- Throw and catch
 - Overhand/underhand throw
 - Throw for distance
 - Throw a chest pass, bounce pass
- Strike and volley an object
 - Hit or volley a moving or stationary object
 - Play a volleyball game within the rules of the game

- Use small apparatus – scooters, hoops, or wands
- Strike or hit a ball
 - Hit a ball off a batting tee
 - Hit a slow pitched ball
- Throw a ball into a hoop
 - Perform a lay-up with their dominant hand
 - Shoot the ball at the hoop at different distances
 - Play a game of basketball
- Establish good sportsmanship habits
 - Put forth full effort
 - Encourage teammates without negativity
 - Be courteous of each other
- Develop individual physical fitness level
 - Cardiovascular endurance
 - Muscular strength
 - Flexibility
 - Demonstrate outcomes of regular and daily exercise
 - Increase exercise duration and stamina

COMPUTER

The Computer curriculum is a sequential and stepwise fashion from kindergarten through eighth grade. The curriculum emphasizes and incorporates classroom strategies and student activities that promote the following core foundational skills – keyboarding and word processing. Students are encouraged to enhance individual skill levels and to continue to improve independently. Students are also encouraged to develop cooperative classroom skills of patience and mutual respect. The computer curriculum emphasizes lifetime skills of research, writing and document development.

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Computer program. Students will be able to:

- Use input and output devices correctly – mouse, keyboard and printer
- Discuss common uses of technology in daily life and identify the advantages and disadvantages
- Use tools, menu commands and format tools properly in word processing
- Utilize various search engines on the web and access information
- Create graphs, tables and charts and insert into a word processing document
- Differentiate between text, data and graphics

LIBRARY

The following concepts and objectives are general outcomes of the third grade Library program. Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of the terms, concepts and skills
- Learn card catalog skills
- Use encyclopedia resource skills to locate information
- Explore different genres to further develop students' interest areas
- Master the following terms – author, title, illustrator, illustrations, publisher, place of publication, copyright, copyright date, spine, cover, pages, dust jacket, dedication page, title page and copyright page
- Understand the use of the card catalogue
- Use an atlas to locate a physical and political map

HOMEWORK

Students in third grade should continue to read 30 minutes or more per night. In addition, written homework assignments will be required that typically will require about 30 minutes to complete. If notebook paper is to be used, it must be wide-ruled (not college-ruled). Student's first and last names and the date should be included on all homework. Blue and black inks only are acceptable (no markers or gel rollers). Math assignments must be done in pencil. All work must be neat and clearly legible and no doodling or extra artwork should be present.

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