

GRADE THREE CURRICULUM GUIDE

Dear Parents/Guardian: This guide contains a brief description of each of the subjects your child will study in Third Grade. It is designed to provide you with a general overview of the content and skills which are taught as well as other pertinent information. Teaching strategies will, of course, vary according to the needs of the class. We hope that the continued use of this guide and the meetings with your child's teachers and learning specialists will keep you informed about the goals of the Andover Public Schools and your child's learning progress.

The Elementary School Principals

English/Language Arts

Language- Third graders will use agreed-upon rules for discussions in small and large groups by posing questions, listening to others' ideas and contributing their own information in order to acquire new knowledge. Students will acquire new vocabulary and standard English grammar and use it correctly in reading, writing, and oral presentations.

Reading and Literature - Students will respond thoughtfully to all forms of spoken and written literature. Third graders will understand written text by using some or all of the following comprehension strategies: predicting, making connections, inferring, identifying main ideas and details, and questioning. Learners will explore the characteristics of different genres. Children will identify themes and provide evidence from the text to support their thinking. They will analyze an author's style and language, developing their critical thinking skills.

Composition- Students will write with a clear focus, coherent organization and sufficient detail in all curricula areas. They will write for different purposes and audiences. As part of the writing process, learners will revise their work to improve organization, content, level of detail, style, tone and word choice. Third graders will also edit their written pieces for correct mechanics and spelling, and cursive penmanship will be introduced.

Media - Students will compare stories in print with their filmed adaptations, describing similarities and differences in the portrayal of characters, plot and settings. The children will create a simple media production using technology.

Mathematics

Students engage in problem solving, communications, reasoning, connecting and representing as they examine the five mathematical strands. The goal of the *Everyday Math* program is for students to become effective problem solvers in each of these areas. Learning experiences take multiple formats, incorporating independent and collaborative work, and the use of games to practice related concepts. The *Everyday Math* program is designed so that concepts are introduced, practiced, and mastered over several school years.

Number Sense and Operations - Third graders read, write, compare & order numbers from 0.01 to 10,000. They also add and subtract four digit numbers, master the multiplication facts up to ten and multiply 2 digit numbers by a 1 digit number. Furthermore, students use and explain appropriate operations to solve problems. They also manipulate fractions, locate values on a number line and represent a mixed number as a whole number and a fraction. Rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000 are used in estimation.

Patterns, Relations and Algebra - Students create, describe and extend numeric patterns. Children determine appropriate symbols for given number sentences using $<$, $>$, and $=$. Learners use pictures, models, tables, charts, graphs, words and number sentences to analyze data.

Geometry - Students compare, model, draw and classify properties of 2 and 3 dimensional geometric shapes including the number of sides, faces, corners, right angles and lines of symmetry. They also describe and draw intersecting and parallel lines.

Measurement - Students demonstrate an understanding of length, weight, and use appropriate metric and US Customary units and tools to estimate and measure. Learners investigate area and perimeter of polygons. Identifying time to the minute and determining elapsed time as areas of continued study.

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Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability - Students collect and organize data, transfer this information into lists, tables, and graphs to interpret, analyze, and make predictions. In addition, children explore possible outcomes for simple probability situations.

Science/Technology/Engineering

The science program provides our students with the foundation and understanding of scientific topics through the acquisition of scientific knowledge, the development of thinking skills, and the application of the scientific method. The units of study which correlate with the science frameworks in physical and earth sciences are Plants Growth and Development, Rocks and Minerals, and Land and Water. The students will: Ask questions and make predictions that can be tested. Select and use appropriate tools and technology in order to extend observations. Keep accurate records while conducting simple investigations or experiments. Conduct multiple trials to test a prediction. Compare the result of an investigation or experiment with the prediction. Recognize simple patterns in data, and use the data to create a reasonable explanation for the results of an investigation or experiment. Use scientific vocabulary appropriately.

History & Social Sciences

Using local historic sites, historical societies, and museums, third graders learn about the history of Massachusetts from the time of the arrival of the Pilgrims. They also learn the history of their own cities and towns and about famous people and events in Massachusetts' history. In addition, they read biographies of prominent Massachusetts people in science, technology, the arts, business, education or political leadership in order to learn how they contributed to Massachusetts history.

Music

Students are required to purchase a recorder as part of the curriculum. They recognize and independently audiate tone and dominant major and minor chords. Students continue to listen and move to music demonstrating patterns, tempos, dynamics, and meter. They begin to identify specific instruments within the instrument family. Students are invited to begin individual or small group study of string instruments through the Andover After School Music Program.

Art

Students design and create a portfolio for their work and continue to develop their skills of reflection, writing, and sharing their reasons for their aesthetic decisions. They continue to use a variety of media to cut complex shapes, apply a range of adhesives, mix colors clearly, and to draw human and other figures with more details.

Physical Education

The physical education program focuses on the development of gross motor skills while progressing toward the development of more fine motor and coordination skills. Students begin to apply the skills and concepts learned in grades K-2 to modified team sports and individual activities. Units of skill further develop eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, loco-motor skills, and spatial awareness.