



THIRD GRADE BENCHMARKS

Third grade marks the beginning of the transition from the primary to the intermediate grades. The program is focused on helping students develop the necessary social and academic skills they need to be successful in the upper grades. Emphasis is placed on developing the student's confidence, effort, responsibility, initiative, compassion, teamwork, common sense and problem solving. Students deepen their understanding of math concepts through hands on explorations, games, whole and small group instruction. It is an exciting year filled with growth, exploration and joy. More comprehensive information about the third grade curriculum can be found in the following curriculum guides.

MATH AND ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – Based on Common Core Standards:

- [Common Core for Parents](#)
- [Ten Things Parents Should Know About the Common Core State Standards](#)
- [Growth Mindset and Common Core](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

***Handwriting/Typing: Cursive is introduced in 2nd grade, but thoroughly taught in 3rd grade. Proper typing techniques are introduced in 3rd Grade.

MATH

In grade three, students will continue to build their concept of numbers, developing an understanding of fractions as numbers. They will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division and apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up through 100 to solve word problems. Students will also make connections between the concept of the area of a rectangle and multiplication and addition of whole numbers. Activities in these areas will include:

- Understanding and explaining what it means to multiply or divide numbers
- Multiplying all one-digit numbers from memory (knowing their times table)
- Multiplying one-digit numbers by multiples of 10 (such as 20, 30, 40)
- Solving two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understanding the concept of area
- Relating the measurement of area to multiplication and division
- Understanding fractions as numbers
- Understanding and identifying a fraction as a number on a number line
- Comparing the size of two fractions
- Expressing whole numbers as fractions and identifying fractions that are equal to whole numbers (for example, recognizing that $\frac{3}{1}$ and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring weights and volumes and solving word problems involving these measurements
- Representing and interpreting data

RELIGION (as outlined by the Archdiocese of San Francisco)

- CREED
 - Students will:
 - demonstrate an understanding that Jesus, God's Son, is both human and divine
 - identify the Apostles Creed as summary of their Catholic faith
 - learn the four marks of the Church
 - name the pope, bishop, and pastor and describe their role in the Church
- SCRIPTURE
 - Students will:
 - demonstrate that the Bible is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and New Testament
 - describe the Old Testament as the story of God's faithful relationship with His chosen people, the Jews
 - describe the Gospels as the story of Jesus and His disciples who show them how to love God and others know and simply describe a parable
- PRAYER/WORSHIP
 - Students will:
 - learn about the seven sacraments
 - know the difference between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist
 - name and simply describe the major seasons of the Liturgical Year
 - give examples of how to actively participate in the celebration of the Eucharist
 - learn about the Rosary
- CHRISTIAN LIVING
 - Students will:
 - describe the mission of Jesus as bringing about the Kingdom of God
 - describe the qualities of a saint identify and become familiar with ways to serve the faith community (e.g. altar servers)
 - recognize that each individual has a vocation to serve God and the Church in a special way
- PRAYERS

- Apostles Creed
- Begin learning ritual and process of the Rosary
- Simple litany responses

SCIENCE

- Students will:
 - understand how plant structures serve different functions in growth, survival, and reproduction identify examples of diverse life forms in different environments
 - understand how living things cause beneficial or detrimental changes in the environment
 - know that Earth is one of several planets that orbit the Sun and that the moon orbits Earth
 - differentiate evidence from opinion and know that scientists do not rely on conclusions unless they are back by confirmed observations
 - understand that matter has three forms: solid, liquid, and gas
 - understand matter changes physical form when heat is applied or removed
 - use numerical data in describing objects, events, and measurements
 - know all matter is made of small particles called atoms
 - identify the different sections of the Periodic Table: atomic number, element symbol, element name, metals, metalloids, and nonmetals
 - collect data in an investigation and analyze those data to develop a logical conclusion

NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) were developed so that students could do less memorizing and more critical thinking, make connections between the Common Core and Science, align classroom practice with scientific research all while encouraging students to apply their knowledge in an appropriate framework. Please use the link below learn more and view the standards.

- [About the NGSS Standards](#)
- [The Standards](#)
- [Why Science Matters](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES (per California State Standards)

- Students will:
 - identify geographical features in their local region (e.g., mountains, valleys, hills, coastal areas, lakes and rivers)
 - discuss how landforms can influence people's lives and the local economy
 - trace the ways in which people have used the resources of the local region and modified the physical environment (e.g. dam construction)
 - understand the different types of communities (e.g., rural, suburb, and urban)
 - learn the difference between renewable and nonrenewable resources
 - discuss what it means to be a good steward of the earth
 - learn about the nation's first communities, their way of life and traditions identify the changes caused by European settlements
 - understand the purpose for bringing the first Africans to Jamestown describe the events that led to the Boston Tea Party
 - discuss how the country grew as people moved West
 - describe the Lewis and Clark expedition
 - understand why immigrants came to America and the hardships they faced utilize map skills, including creating a map, legend and compass rose
 - learn to use a compass in an outdoor setting
 - learn to graph data on a bar graph and create their own surveys to graph
 - learn the use of timelines understand hemispheres