



Third Grade Benchmarks

Lower School Habits of Mind

- Engagement: Participates fully and collaboratively in school, community, and academic life.
- Integrity: Exhibits ethical behavior and honesty, providing service for the common good.
- Responsibility: Takes care of self, others, and the school as a learner, friend, advocate, and citizen.
- Reflection: Thinks constructively and critically, contemplating the learning and actions of self and others.
- Resilience: Demonstrates persistence while working through challenges.
- Flexibility: Questions the world from varying perspectives, adapting prior knowledge to generate new solutions.

Third Grade Speaking & Listening

- Engages effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade three topics
- Comes to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material
- Follows agreed-upon rules for discussion
- Asks questions about information from a speaker
- Reports on a topic or text using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details
- Speaks clearly and at an understandable pace

Third Grade Social Studies

- Identifies different American symbols
- Explores concepts of democracy, voting and rights of citizenship
- Demonstrates awareness about state, region, country and continent
- Uses map elements to identify geographical features across North America
- Describes how the physical geography of North American regions influenced how Native Americans adapted to their natural environment
- Identifies similarities and differences in the habits and living patterns now and in the past
- Understands differing perspectives of Native Americans, early settlers and pioneers
- Analyzes and questions historical reports
- Identifies ways in which people can be environmental stewards of our land today

- Engages in class and school jobs responsibility

Third Grade Reading

- Reads and comprehends third grade level literature
- Reads and comprehends third grade level informational texts
- Reads with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Identifies various genres (e.g. biography, realistic fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction and fantasy)
- Recognizes the setting, plot, characters and author's purpose in a text
- Decodes multi-syllable words and irregularly spelled words
- Determines the meaning of words and phrases using context cues
- Identifies figurative language (alliteration and personification)
- Uses text features (table of contents, chapter titles, glossaries and indexes) to locate information relevant to a given topic
- Uses information gained from maps, photographs and words in a text to demonstrate understanding

Third Grade Writing

- Begins to use paragraph format to organize ideas (including topic sentences, conclusions, and transitions)
- Writes a narrative text with a clear beginning, middle and end
- Writes an informational text that contains information based on research
- Knows and uses the stages of the writing process appropriately
- Listens to others' writing and offers feedback
- Uses writing time appropriately
- Correctly uses capital letters
- Correctly uses punctuation
- Forms and uses possessives
- Uses conventional spelling for high-frequency words in own writing
- Writes legibly (begins to use cursive)
- Correctly uses parts of speech

Third Grade Science

- Develop an understanding of the similarities and differences of organisms' life cycles.
- Explore how organisms have different inherited traits, and traits that are adapted to live in a certain environment
- Analyze data from fossils to develop an understanding of organisms from long ago and the nature of their environments
- Determine the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object
- Experiment with the cause and effect relationships of electric or magnetic interactions

- Organize and use data to describe typical weather conditions expected during a particular season
- Uses observation and questioning skills in science inquiry
- Collects and records data with pictures, numbers and words
- Makes predictions and draws conclusions based on observed patterns
- Conducts simple experiments and follows directions using scientific tools

Third Grade Math

- Reads and writes numbers to 10,000 using numerals and expanded form
- Rounds whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100
- Fluently adds within 10,000
- Fluently subtracts within 10,000
- Demonstrates a conceptual understanding of multiplication
- Solves multiplication facts up to 9×9
- Demonstrates a conceptual understanding of division
- Represents fractions as parts of a whole, parts of a group and on a numberline
- Recognizes and generates simple equivalent fractions
- Adds and subtracts money (with decimals)
- Calculates area and perimeter of squares and rectangles
- Compares and contrasts different types of regular polygons
- Identifies right, acute, and obtuse angles in geometric shapes
- Measures and estimates for length, weight, volume and time using the appropriate tool
- Represents, interprets and makes predictions from data in a scaled graph
- Solves two-step word problems using the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication & division)
- Solves word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes
- Communicates and represents mathematical thinking

Third Grade Spanish

- Uses basic greetings, farewells and expressions of courtesy
- Uses physical gestures to infer meaning
- Responds accurately to yes/no and either/or questions
- Uses previously learned vocabulary in the target language, including family members, feelings, foods and transportation
- Communicates on some familiar topics using basic phrases
- Demonstrates comprehension of simple sentences and/or phrases in the target language
- Comprehends basic classroom directions provided in the target language
- Begins to express likes, dislikes and emotions in the target language

Third Grade Music

- Singing: Sings unison, two and three-part canons using in tune singing voices

- Pitch: Reads notes on the treble clef music staff while playing instruments
- Rhythm & Meter: Reads and plays rhythms correctly in simple meters
- Form and Design: Demonstrates understanding of musical form in individual and group composition exercises
- Playing: Achieves beginning level technique while playing soprano recorder
- Playing: Develops beginning level awareness of effective ensemble playing
- Expressive Qualities: Incorporates expressive musical qualities in individual and ensemble performances
- Movement: Performs a variety of multi-cultural, folk and line dances with enthusiasm

Third Grade Visual Art

- Elements and Principles: Demonstrates an understanding of the elements and principles of design
- Observation: Demonstrates patience and understanding for the process of observing and creating
- Creating: Self directs creative process, perseveres and explores solutions to art problems
- Expression: Discusses thoughts, feelings and experiences expressed in artwork; participates and is open to peer feedback about creative process
- Connecting: Identifies and compares work of art that connects to personal life, other cultures, time/place and community
- Tools and media: Demonstrates an understanding of the safe and proficient use of materials and tools for a variety of artistic process

Third Grade Physical Education

- Awareness of teammates during games
- Balance
- Passing to a moving target: leading passes
- Dribbling with dominant and nondominant sides
- Throw a ball focused on accuracy
- Work with teammates during strategy games - communication, listening, express opinions
- Increased understanding of a Warm-up/Stretch
- Demonstrates respect for individual differences in physical abilities
- Participation/Effort in Sports Games
- Participation/Effort in Fitness
- Sportsmanship (Winning/Losing)
- Overall Attitude