



St. James Day School

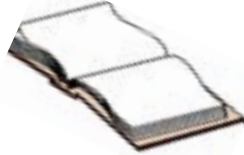
Third Grade Curriculum



Specific concepts and activities to be taught include:

Reading/English

- Exploration of concepts through discussion of literature
- Reflective activities
- Research
- Independent Workshop and Reading Roundtable
- Individualized Accelerated Reading
- Five-step writing processing
- Writing in different genre
- Limerick writing
- D'Nealian Handwriting
- Drama - Play performance
- Subject, predicate, complements
- Proofreading
- Homophones & homographs
- Reading for understanding:
 - Correcting wrong statements
 - Retelling
 - True/False statements
 - Determining meaning from context
 - Following written directions
 - Synthesis
 - Locating answers to questions
 - Dictionary & Thesaurus skills
 - Imagery



Spanish

Third grade students meet twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class with the Spanish teacher.

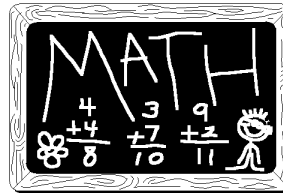
- Create and read Spanish flash cards
- Ask common classroom questions in Spanish
- Seasons & related topics
- Write an original short story in Spanish
- Increase vocabulary for longer sentence writing
- Count by fives and tens
- Describe the weather
- Accurately use personal pronouns and definite articles
- Identify parts of speech
- Conjugate verb 'tener'



Math

The math program uses a multisensory approach to teaching, enabling all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Concepts taught include, but are not limited to:

- Comparing and ordering numbers
- Measurement
- Solving routine and non-routine problems
- mastery of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts
- Addition and subtraction of fractions
- Identifying and completing patterns
- Division of single-digit divisors
- Addition of positive and negative numbers
- Create, read, and write observations from real graphs, pictographs, bar graphs, Venn diagrams, and line graphs
- Graphing of ordered pairs
- Identifying function rules
- Identifying angles and lines of symmetry



Social Studies

- Expands idea of communities which differ in size, geographic location, urban, suburban, & rural features
- How geographic features affect community development
- How communities are linked by communication & transportation systems
- Further study of cardinal directions
- Ways in which renewable & nonrenewable natural resources are used for communities
- How technology has changed the way people live and work
- Study of the many different groups of people who helped found our country
- Principles of United States government
- Historical U.S. documents

Science

The science program continues the hands-on approach. Third grade units include, but are not limited to, 13 scientific investigations including four with live organisms.

•Measurement (4 Investigations)

- Discover the need for standard units of measurement
- Learn metric measurement
- Observe, quantify, compare, and record length in centimeters
- Observe, quantify, compare, and record mass in grams
- Observe, quantify, compare, and record volume in milliliters and liters
- Observe, quantify, compare, and record temperature in degrees Celsius

•Structures of Life (4 Investigations)

- Work with living organisms to explore different functions: growth, survival, and reproduction
- Compare properties of seeds and fruits
- Germinate seeds
- Grow plants hydroponically to observe plant life cycle
- Maintain crayfish and land snails; observe and compare their structures & behaviors



•Water (4 Investigations)

- Investigate properties of water in its 3 common states: solid, liquid, & gas
- Observe and record what happens to water as it is heated, cooled, frozen, evaporated, condensed, and allowed to interact with soil & gravel
- Explore components of the water cycle
- Introduce water supply, purification, treatment & conservation
- Construct waterwheels to demonstrate that the power of falling water can be harnessed to do work



Computer

Third grade students go to the Lower School computer lab twice a week for 25 minute technology lessons. Classrooms also contain two to three networked computers which can be used in core curriculum projects. Computer lab concepts reviewed and introduced in 3rd grade include:

- Continuing improvement of keyboarding skills
- Third year Logo programming reinforcing geometry skills
- Word Processing skills using AppleWorks and/or WORD, which can be transferred to classroom activities
- Basic database concepts and practice
- Simple multimedia presentations
- Understanding the Internet and Email



Music

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for a 25 minute music class with the music teacher. Music concepts and activities consist of, but are not limited to:

- Correct breathing for singing
- Identify simple music forms by listening
- Determine duple or triple meter by moving to the beat



- Take simple rhythmic dictation
- Echo melodic patterns in singing
- Play rhythmic instruments as accompaniment
- Categorize families of instruments
- Perform in the Musical and Candlelight
- Sing songs of action, celebration, and patriotism
- Sing in a round
- Demonstrate understanding of musical terms: Andante, Allegretto, Vivace, a tempo, fortissimo, diminuendo, ritard, bar line, key signature, scale
- Sing alone; Play simple harmonic accompaniments
- Take simple melodic dictation
- Recognize difference in melody and accompaniment
- Skillfully follow the verses in the hymn book
- Recall events from the lives of composers studied in class and recognize their music

Physical Education

All students travel to the gym for P.E. activities daily. Activities include, but are not limited to:

- Daily fitness activities
- Push-ups, sit-ups, and shuttle-run drills
- Rules and positions of soccer
- Correctly perform dribbling, passing, and trapping a soccer ball
- Correctly perform a toe kick and inside kick
- Experience goal keeper position and rules
- Overhand and underhand catching
- Football: Rules, positions, throwing, catching, punting, hiking
- Volleyball: Rules, positions, passing, serving
- Dance: square dance; Line dance, swing dance
- Gymnastics: weight transfer and balancing skills
- Know and practice the components of the President's Physical Fitness Skills



Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers. Chapel is held daily in each classroom. The entire student body meets each Thursday for Morning Prayer in 'Big Chapel', led by the rector or curate of St. James Episcopal Church.

