

## Elementary Curriculum: Grade Three

### Religion

Third graders will learn through stories, prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion, reflection, and weekly mass about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day. The focus is on the life of Christ, the Holy Trinity, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, sacraments, service, liturgical seasons, and the church as a community. They also learn the Apostles' Creed.

### English Language Arts

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

#### *Reading*

Students develop skills in reading different genres including literary texts (poetry, folktales, fantasies, and plays) and informational texts (biographies and other media). Through differentiated instruction, reading accuracy and fluency will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills throughout the year:

- Using phonetic and structural analysis
- Using word identification strategies
- Developing vocabulary and spelling
- Ask/answer questions to demonstrate understanding
- Understanding elements of literature (plot, character, setting, theme)
- Compare/contrast themes
- Determine main idea and explain how details provide support
- Literature discussion/sharing
- Use text features to locate information

#### *Writing*

Third grade students use writing to convey thoughts and meaning. Our students will write legibly, write multiple sequential sentences on a given topic, apply spelling and phonetic patterns in their writing, and apply grammar and mechanics. At the third grade level our students understand and can name basic parts of speech, use simple verb tenses, practice different writing formats, and apply correct punctuation. Third grade students also use the writing process including pre-writing, writing, revising, editing and final draft. Furthermore, third grade students write in a variety of forms including narrative, informative, explanatory and opinion pieces in addition to routine writing. They will:

- Use and apply usage, mechanics, and grammar (including parts of speech)
- Learn spelling and vocabulary including prefixes and suffixes

### *Speaking and Listening*

Third Grade students will listen for understanding, follow directions and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will participate in class discussions. Students will also present material orally and make presentations to individuals and small groups. Third grade students will demonstrate listening skills by asking questions, paraphrasing and restating.

### **Mathematics**

Third grade students acquire knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills and to solve math problems. The ALEKS program gives the students an opportunity to practice math skills and acquire new ones both at school and at home. Our third grade students will:

- Identify place value up to 6 digit numbers
- Add and subtract 2 and 3 digit numbers
- Solve multiple step word problems
- Chart, compare and graph data
- Know multiplication and division facts
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers
- Use measurement data to determine time, liquid volumes, and mass
- Graph and explain data
- Identify, classify, compare and describe characteristics of solids and shapes
- Understand area and perimeter

### **Science**

Third grade students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining.

Our third grade students will:

- Collect and chart data
- Describe simple life cycles of plants and animals
- Recognize relationship of living things and their environment
- Identify how the Earth's surface changes
- Describe features of the Earth and its resources
- Explore the solar system and the planets

### **Social Studies**

Third grade students will develop an awareness of themselves people around them. The focus will be on pioneers and western movement, map skills, and natural resources. They will learn about Native Americans through an inquiry-based unit.

### **Physical Education**

In third grade, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, acquire an awareness of personal health needs,

follow more complex sequences and movement in games and dance, and participate in cooperative group games.

### **Art**

In third grade, the students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. They will also communicate through art using a variety of media and tools, appreciate various works of art, and learn how art reflects and shapes society and life.

### **Technology**

Our third grade students will visit the technology lab and use software and web resources for reinforcement of classroom lessons. They will understand basic word processing terms, use word processing, produce simple products, print documents, and create a multimedia presentation. They will also focus on developing proper keyboarding technique.

### **Library**

Third Grade students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week. They will also recognize different sections of the library and know how to use a library.