

WCS Third Grade Curriculum Guide

“..Because anyone who serves Christ in this way
is pleasing to God and approved by men.”

Romans 14:18



BIBLE –The lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Daniel have a lot to teach third graders about the rewards of living for God. All of these men faced rejection, but all of them remained faithful to God. Students will develop strong character as they draw upon the experiences of these men. Text used is Positive Action for Christ- Growing with God.

CHAPEL - This is a special time each day where teachers and students alike join in prayer, singing and praising God for loving us. Students are used extensively to lead chapel activities. This leadership training develops personal awareness and self-confidence. One day each week chapel time is extended to include special awards, recitations of class memory work and a brief Bible lesson.

MATHEMATICS - A third grade student has mastered the addition and subtraction of whole numbers and further advances that understanding by using concrete and pictorial models to develop the concepts of multiplication and division. An additional emphasis is the connection of fractional models to symbols. The student begins to use estimation and mathematical reasoning to solve real-world problems and is able to rationalize and communicate decisions effectively. Throughout third grade mathematics, the student evaluates, adapts, and selects appropriate strategies, vocabulary, and tools to solve problems. Text used is Saxon.

SCIENCE - A third grade student plans and implements investigations to collect information using tools such as microscopes. The student also makes inferences, communicates conclusions, and makes informed decisions. The student identifies the importance of components of the natural world including rocks, soil, water, atmospheric gases, and forces that change the Earth. The student explores magnetism, gravity, needs of organisms, habitats, and competition within an ecosystem. A third grade student continues to explore constancy and change in systems. Text used is Scott Foresman.

SOCIAL STUDIES - A third grade student learns how individuals changed their communities and consequently their world. The lives of heroes and how their contributions resulted in new ideas, new innovations, and new communities are explored. The student investigates the responsibility of local government and how it meets the needs of our communities. The student uses geography skills and concepts to find places on maps and globes and to create their own maps. Economic and governmental vocabulary is acquired. Text used is Scott Foresman.

LANGUAGE ARTS - A third grader spends significant blocks of time reading and writing independently. Using increasingly complex word identification strategies, the student builds vocabulary and enhances comprehension. A third grader reads from a variety of classic and contemporary works and supports ideas and inferences by citing portions of text. Writing is more elaborate and detailed. The student revises and edits to produce final products. A third grader listens critically to spoken messages to make contributions during discussions. Texts used are Scholastic Literacy Place Series, Volumes 1 & 2 and Words I Use When I Write.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Students receive instruction three times a week using the CATCH (Coordinated Approach To Child Health) Curriculum. As part of this developmentally appropriate curriculum, students participate in activities that: improve both their fine and gross motor skills, teach the importance of being physically fit, introduce them to the concept of teambuilding, as well as develop sportsmanship.

MUSIC – Musical games & movement, fun songs, steady beat, and rhythm stick activities are a part of our music program. Students will improve listening skills as they learn to accompany songs with simple instruments and learn how to read rhythms. At least once a year students will participate in a music night program as well as special events such as Grandparent’s breakfast.

COMPUTER LAB - Students visit the computer lab weekly to enhance their classroom instruction, build their computer skills, and research on the internet as a resource to science, social studies, and/or math with teacher guidance. Students also use the Alpha Smart program to develop their keyboarding skills.

SPANISH – To broaden their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary, student’s studies will include geography, culture, and an introduction to the basics of grammar.

LIBRARY - Students have one instructional class time each week where library skills are taught plus additional check-in/check-out times available as needed to support the Accelerated Reader program. Students can participate in state and national reading programs: the Bluebonnet and Crown Reading Programs. A store is offered each 6 weeks to support the Accelerated Reader (AR) program where students may “buy” items with AR points.

FIELD TRIPS –Age-appropriate field trips to locations such as children’s theatres, museums, and farms are carefully chosen to teach each student about their community and their world. These trips are taken in connection with and to enhance classroom studies.

IN-SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS – Throughout the school year, special presentations, performances, and visitors enrich the student’s school experiences.

RECESS – Gross motor activities, free play, and time to socialize are crucial to a young child’s development. A daily playtime is provided on the outside playground.

HOMEWORK – The third grade student will have math and spelling homework three nights a week. Students will need to spend time each week studying a list of vocabulary words, a Bible verse, and reading for AR (Accelerated Reader). Students will receive a study guide for social studies and science three to four days prior to a chapter test. Each student is given a planner at the beginning of school; homework is written down for the entire week on Monday in this planner.