

Classroom Learning

Math:

Our district adopted math curriculum is Scott Foresman. Third grade math moves through a large number of concepts. It's challenging, fun, and fast paced. It's extremely important for students to keep up with their nightly homework and study hard for tests/quizzes. Nightly homework will be assigned online. Students will be asked to log on to the Pearson website every night, take the lesson quiz and then print out the worksheet that is assigned to them.

Some of the concepts we'll be covering this year are:

- Understanding large numbers; emphasis on place value, rounding estimating
- Relationship between decimals, fractions, percents
- Add, subtract, multiply, divide – whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Integers
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Math Facts

Reading:

My number one goal is that your children all love to read and continue to grow as readers. Third graders are no longer just learning to read. They are reading to learn. In reading workshop the focus is on teaching strategies to help students choose books that are “just right” for them so they can read and comprehend the text. The reading workshop includes mini-lessons, independent practice and conferring. The mini-lessons are structured so that the students are explicitly taught strategies to help them apply the third grade reading comprehension standards. It provides opportunities for independent reading, partner reading and conferences with the teacher. Individual assessments will enable children to move at their own pace as they begin to extend their literature selections.

We will also be using the Houghton Mifflin reading series. This program integrates reading, phonics, spelling, and writing to provide optimal reading instruction for third graders throughout the year. It introduces six different reading strategies: predict/infer, phonics/decoding, monitor/clarify, question, evaluate, and summarize. It revisits these strategies throughout the year. Third grade Core Literature books include: *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, and *Charlotte's Web*.

Because reading is basic to all learning, it is vital that children develop strong skills. It is expected that they read at least 20 minutes every night as part of their regular homework from a book that is at their “Just Right (Independent) Level.” This reading should be recorded daily on their Reading Logs.

Spelling:

Spelling Lists come home on Monday and spelling tests are the last day of the week. Students will take a pretest of the week's spelling words that come from the Houghton Mifflin Reading Series each week. These words follow a specific spelling pattern. We also incorporate High Frequency Words that students need to know how to spell in their own writing. If they miss the word, it will be on their list for that

week. If they already know the word, they will choose a new word from an additional list. Through this differentiated program all students are studying words each week that they need to learn and don't already know. On Friday, I dictate 2 sentences to the whole class. Then students are matched with partners and give each other their spelling tests as I oversee the whole process. It is a pretty amazing program that has been very effective in the past!

Writing:

There are a number of genres that we'll be working on this year.

- Narrative
- Opinion
- Informative/Explanatory
- Letter Writing
- Report Writing

A great deal of emphasis is placed on the organization and development of paragraph writing in both expository and narrative form. We will work on editing and revising skills by focusing on spelling, grammar, sentence structure, punctuation and capitalization. As we work on report writing we will learn to gather information, make outlines, and write summaries.

Writer's Workshop will be an opportunity for the children to express themselves through their writing. The Writer's Workshop will consist of mini-lessons, the writing process, and conferring. During the mini-lessons, we will be learning new strategies to improve our writing. I hope my students will learn to see themselves as "authors" with something important to say, and know that through their words, they can touch the minds and hearts of readers.

Math:

Third grade math moves through a large number of concepts. It's very challenging, fun, and fast paced. It is extremely important for students to keep up with their nightly homework and to review each Topic (chapter) Test.

We will be using the Scott-Foresman envision mathematics Program. This is a comprehensive program that includes re-teach, challenge, and problem solving activities for each lesson. The use of manipulatives and mental math are incorporated into lessons. We will be doing the lessons in class and homework will be assigned to reinforce concepts covered in class. Tests will occur at the end of each Topic.

In addition to this program, we will be using other supplemental math materials such as math facts, timed tests, and math centers (hands-on math). Being proficient with basic math facts and learning all the multiplication facts are a must this year! "Mountain Math" is a supplemental program that provides a sequential review of math concepts throughout the year and encourages retention of concepts.

Science:

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill science program includes lessons in life, earth, and physical science. Students will have their own science textbooks and will be doing science in class as well as working in the Science Lab for more in-depth and hands-on science studies. Our class will go to the Science Lab once a week for 45 minutes. Some of the topics that will be covered include life cycles, adaptations, and environmental changes, weather vs. climate, forces, motion, and magnets.

Social Studies:

The Scott Foresman Social Studies program focuses on community, California Indians, rules and laws, geography/map skills, and the local economy. We also study the history of the San Ramon Valley. Our big project for the year is to write a report about the San Ramon Valley. The Junior Achievement Program will focus on practical information about businesses and the main occupations found in those businesses within a typical city.

Fine Arts:

We are fortunate to have music with Mrs. Rick each week for 45 minutes. We will be singing, playing instruments, learning how to read music, play the recorder, and so much more.

Computers:

During our 45 minutes each week in the Computer Lab, the children will work with quality software programs to improve their word processing skills, and learn language, math, problem solving, and research skills. Classroom computers will also be used to enhance various activities.

Library:

We will go to the library for 30 minutes each week. Our librarian will provide instruction in library skills, highlight literature, and guide the students in enjoying the quality literature available at our school. Please find a regular, safe place to keep library books at home and remember to return them by Wednesday each week so that they can be checked in and ready to go for Thursday.