

THIRD GRADE

Curriculum Guide for Parents

The Common Core State Standards (also known as the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study*) focus on English/Language Arts and Mathematics, and integrate literacy in all subject areas. The North Carolina Essential Standards provide standards for Social Studies, Science, Information and Technology, Arts Education, Healthful Living, and other subject areas. These standards describe what students are supposed to know from kindergarten through 12th grade. Each year builds on the next so that by high school graduation, young people are prepared to go to college or to enter the workplace.



The purpose of this brochure is to provide information to parents about what students will be expected to know and be able to do during their year in the third grade.

Other Curriculum Areas:

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY



Students will learn to work with sources of information and informational text. They will use technology as a tool and understand the research process. Students will understand safety and ethical issues.

HEALTHFUL LIVING



Students will learn about feelings, nutrition, and physical activity. They will understand safety and will work on motor skill development, movement concepts, health-related fitness, and personal/social responsibility.

MUSIC



Students will exemplify musical literacy. They will understand how to respond to music. Students will understand how music is relevant in many contexts.

VISUAL ARTS



Students will use the language of visual arts to communicate effectively. They will apply creative and critical thinking skills to artistic expression, and will understand the interdisciplinary connections and life applications of the visual arts.

English/Language Arts

The Common Core State Standards set goals for student mastery in language arts. The study of language arts includes reading, writing, speaking and listening. The standards include examples of appropriate books for students to read at each grade level in literature and informational texts. Informational texts include literary nonfiction and historical, scientific and technical texts. Teachers will choose the reading assignments for their students using the examples as a guide.



English/Language Arts

Reading: Literature

Students will be learning how to demonstrate their understanding of literature. Using details from the text, students will learn to recount fables, folktales, and myths and explain the central message or moral of stories. They will be able to describe characters, themes, settings, and plots of stories, dramas, and poetry appropriate for third graders.

Reading: Informational Text

Students will be learning how to demonstrate their understanding of informational text. Using details from the text, students will explain how details support the main idea. They will be able to describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in procedures in texts appropriate for third graders.

Language

Students will learn how to demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs). They will demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing. Students will be able to determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade three reading and content.

Reading: Foundational Skills

Students will be learning how to apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. Using context, students will confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding. They will read and understand irregularly spelled words and words with prefixes and suffixes.

Writing

Students will be learning how to write opinion pieces, supporting a point of view with reasons. Using linking words and phrases, students will connect opinions, reasons, and ideas. They will create an organizational structure and develop topics with facts, definitions, and details. Students will also be learning how to write narratives to develop real or imagined events. Using dialogue and description of action, students will organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally. With help from peers and adults, students will develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. They will use technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others. Students will learn to conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

Speaking and Listening

Students will learn to engage effectively in collaborative discussions and come prepared to explore ideas under discussion. They will report on a topic or text, with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at

an understandable pace. Students will learn to create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading and will add visual displays when appropriate.

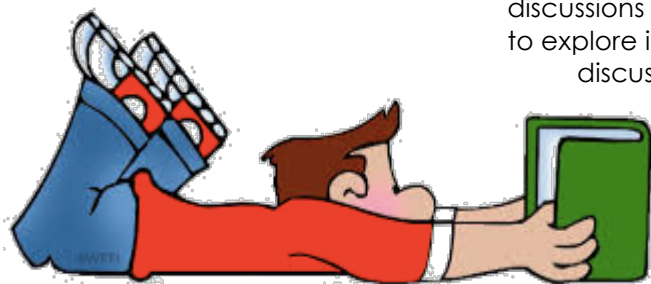
Reading 3D

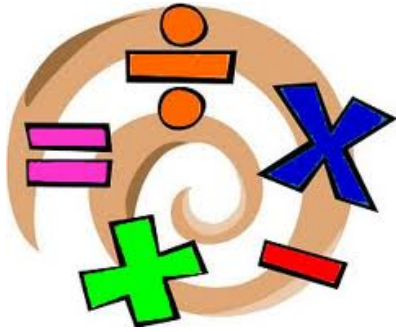
Reading 3D is a two-part assessment that enables teachers to get a complete picture of each child's ability to read with



comprehension. It combines quick indicators of foundational skills in reading through the DIBELS assessment along with a running record (TRC or text reading and comprehension) to better understand how students find meaning in the text they read.

Given at the beginning of the year (BOY), middle of the year (MOY), and end of the year (EOY), the Reading 3D assessments help teachers monitor a student's growth and progress in reading. Reports are sent home to parents after each assessment. The results of the Reading 3D assessments also allow teachers to personalize what students are taught in their guided reading groups and provide individualized instruction to students to enable them to become better readers.





Mathematics

The Common Core Mathematics Standards place an emphasis on eight mathematical practices. These

practices are strategies for thinking through and solving mathematical problems.

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

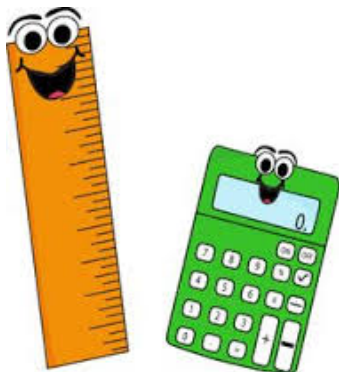
Using these practices, third grade students will learn about:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

Students will learn how to represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction. They will be able to fluently multiply and divide and solve word problems within 100, and using various strategies. Students will understand the properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

Students will learn how to use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic and round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100. They will learn to fluently add and subtract within 1000 using various strategies. Students will be able to multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10 in the range 10-90 (e.g., 9×80 , 5×60) using various strategies.



Measurement and Data

Students will learn to solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects. They will learn how to generate, represent and interpret data (graphs, line plots), and will understand concepts of area, measure areas, and relate area to multiplication and addition. Students will recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures. Solving real world and mathematical problems involving measurement and data will also be a focus for third graders.

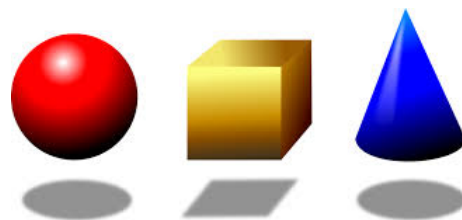


Number and Operations - Fractions

Students will learn to develop an understanding of fractions as numbers and that a fraction $1/b$ as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into equal parts; understand a fraction a/b as the quantity formed by a parts of size $1/b$. They will understand a fraction as a number on the number line and represent fractions on a number line diagram. Students will be able to explain equivalence of fractions in special cases, and compare fractions by reasoning about their size.

Geometry

Students will learn to reason with shapes and their attributes. They will understand that shapes in different categories (e.g., rhombuses, rectangles) may share attributes (e.g., having four sides), and that the shared attributes can define a larger category (e.g., quadrilaterals). They will recognize rhombuses, rectangles, and squares as examples of quadrilaterals, and draw examples of quadrilaterals that do not belong to any of these subcategories. Students will learn to partition shapes into parts with equal areas and express



the area of each part as a unit fraction of the whole.



Science

The North Carolina Essential Standards organizes Science into the domains of Physical

Science, Earth Science, and Life Sciences. By the end of third grade, students should be able to conduct investigations, gather evidence, and grow in their understanding in the following areas:

Forces and Motion

Students will understand motion and factors that affect motion. They will compare the relative speeds of objects. Students will learn how to explain the effects of earth's gravity on the motion of any object on or near the earth.

Matter: Properties and Change

Students will understand the structure and properties of matter. They will compare solids, liquids, and gases based on their basic properties, and will summarize changes that occur in matter.

Energy: Conservation and Transfer

Students will learn about energy and recognize how energy can be transferred from one object to another.

Earth in the Universe

Students will recognize that the earth is part of a system called the solar system that includes the sun (a star), planets, and many moons, and that the earth is the third planet from the sun. Students will learn about the length and direction of an object's shadow related to the position of the sun.

Earth Systems, Structures and Processes

Students will learn to compare the structures of the earth's surface using models or three-dimensional diagrams. They will compare Earth's saltwater, freshwater, and land features.

Structures and Functions of Living Organisms

Students will understand human body systems and how they are essential for life: protection, movement and support.

Ecosystems

Students will learn about plants and understand how plants survive in their environment.

Social Studies

In third grade, students draw upon knowledge learned in previous grades to develop more sophisticated understandings of how communities may be linked to form larger political units, and how there are cultural, geographic, and economic connections. Students will understand the importance of being a citizen and identify the contributions of individuals in the local community. Through the study of historical narratives, students are introduced to the concept of perspective by asking them to explain why people can describe the same event differently.

History

Students will understand how key historical events, individuals and ideas have influenced the history of local and regional communities.

Geography and Environmental Literacy

Students will understand the earth's patterns by using the 5 themes of geography (location, place, human-environment interaction, movement and regions), as well as how people adapt to, change and protect the environment to meet their needs.

Economics and Financial Literacy

Students will understand how the location of regions affects activity in a market economy. They will be able to explain why people become entrepreneurs and will be able to give examples of entrepreneurship in various regions of our state.

Civics and Governance

Students will understand the development, structure and function of local government, and will learn to describe the structure of local government as well as how it functions to serve citizens.

Culture

Students will understand how diverse cultures are visible in local and regional communities. They will use non-fiction texts to explore how cultures borrow and share from each other (foods, languages, rules, traditions, and behaviors).

