



Newtown Friends School

Third Grade Curriculum

Teachers

Jennifer Beccaris, Alison Keeney

Routine

Students will have approximately one hour of homework every day except Friday and the weekend. This will consist of 30 minutes of sustained independent reading, a spelling, and a math assignment.

Curriculum

Teaching Children to Care

For the first six weeks, all Lower School classes spend time learning how to be effective, productive, respectful members of the community. Appropriate behaviors and routines are modeled and practiced. Students contribute to the work of developing high expectations for behavior within the community.

- The Golden Rule
- Behavioral expectations and logical consequences
- Morning meeting
- Class meeting

Quakerism

Wednesday Meeting for Worship
The Quaker Testimonies - "SPICES"
Weekly Grade Meeting

Language Arts

Reading Workshop

Choosing just-right books
Independent reading
Reading partners
Book club "read alouds" (teacher) with "turn and talk"
Corresponding mini-lessons
Student and teacher conferencing
Supplemental written activities

Comprehension Strategies - Moving Beyond Decoding

Making connections
Predicting
Questioning
Visualizing
Inferring
Corresponding mini-lessons
Student and teacher conferencing
Supplemental written activities

Writing Workshop*

Introduction to Writing Workshop in the third grade
Keeping a writer's notebook
Narrative writing
Essays
Literary essays
Fiction writing
Poetry
Memoir

*Each of the above activities and projects will be supported and enhanced by appropriate mini-lessons, writing activities and student-teacher conferencing.

Specific Skills

Spelling
Manuscript handwriting review
Cursive writing
Proofreading
Editing

Math

Investigations in Number, Data, and Space

Trading stickers, combining coins - addition, subtraction, and the number system
Perimeter, angles, and area - 2-D geometry and measurement

Equal groups - multiplication and division
Stories, tables, and graphs - patterns, functions, and change
Finding fair shares - fractions and decimals
Multiplication facts (1 - 12)
Math centers

Social Studies

The Rain Forest
Explorers Change the Map (Christopher Columbus and Ferdinand Magellan)
Introduction to Mapping
The World Map - Introduction to terms, data, and information
George School Map Project

Field Trips

Franklin Institute
Performance at the Mitchell Theater of Performing Arts
Barnes & Noble, for help on shopping for books
George School, for mapping project

SPECIALS

Art

Teacher: Sunny Mitchell

Units of Study

Active listening, following directions, multiple steps
Use clay as sculpture, introduction to slab construction ,use of under-glazes, introduction to true glazes
Patterning and independent projects
Use of sketches to gather information, plan and practice
Use of materials, new and familiar
Projects tie into curriculum, art history, culture, math

Art Show

The Newtown Friends School art show is hung every spring and is open for about three weeks. The work is hung throughout the school making it accessible to everyone. Each and every child is represented

in the art show. This is a wonderful opportunity for students, families and friends of the school to celebrate our students' creativity.

Library & Technology

Teacher: Andi Sibley

Routines

All students may check out 2 books for 2 weeks; additional materials available as needed.
We do not charge overdue fines or replacement fees for late or missing library materials.
Our Network Usage Policy is stated in the parent handbook.

Library

Book check out available daily
Library catalog available on network
Weekly scheduled visits for research, reading materials, and computers

Computer

Third grade has weekly, 45 minute computer classes.
Computers as tools
Problem solving
Creative expression
Communication
Keyboarding
Word processing
Library research

Software

Bailey's Book House
Imagination Express, Ocean and Rain Forest
Inspiration and Kidspiration
Internet Explorer
Kid Pix Deluxe 4
Learn About Animals, Learn About Plants
Library World
Math Arena and Math Arena Advanced
Mavis Beacon 17

Microsoft Office 2007
Mighty Math Zoo Zillions
Scholastic Keys
Stanley Sticker Stories
Sunbuddy Math Playhouse
Thinkin' Things Galactic Brain Benders
Thinkin' Things Tooney the Loon
Type to Learn and Type to Learn, Jr
Zoombinis Island Odyssey

Music

Teacher: Katie Johnson
All Lower School students have music two times a week for 30 minutes.

Units of Study

Active Listening/Music History
Kodaly Method of Solfege and Handsigns
Recorder (B, A, G)
Movement Exploration
Vocal Technique
Nutcracker (instruments of the orchestra)
Music Theory (rhythm and treble clef)
Composition Projects, using Finale Software
Musical Performance

Physical Education

Teacher: Lisa Mimm
Third grade students have Physical Education two times a week for thirty minutes.

Units of Study

Soccer Skills
Lifetime Skills and Activities
Problem Solving and Cooperation
Rhythm and Dance
Physical Fitness
Introduction to Basketball

Dance Presentation
Nutrition

Science

Teacher: Janine Mannick
Third grade has science twice a week for 45 minutes each class period.

Homework

Third graders are occasionally assigned homework.

Units of Study

Weather
Geology
Scientific Method Labs (ball unit)
Trees and Photosynthesis

Spanish

Teacher: Luz Marina Cardozo

Third grade students have Spanish twice a week.

The main objective of the class is for students to have fun while they are learning Spanish. The learning goals are to develop communicative skills in an informal and relaxed environment and to introduce culture of Spanish-speaking people mainly from Colombia, Mexico, and Spain. The immersion Spanish class highly encourages students to communicate in Spanish. Students are building on what they learn in each class through review of different topics including new vocabulary and grammar.

Methodologies

Total physical response
Natural approach
Communicative approach to improve listening, writing, reading, and speaking skills
Gestures and actions to develop listening and speaking skills
Facial expressions and oral teacher modeling

Visual aids and realia

Daily Lessons

Warm up activities: greetings, songs and previously learned vocabulary

Presentation of new thematic topics

Ongoing informal assessment through games and oral/written activities

Games, songs, short stories, dialogues, and role plays

Closing song relevant to third grade