

Commack Public Schools



Curriculum Guide *for* *Third Grade Families*

The Commack School District Mission Statement

*Within the context of a caring community of learners,
our primary mission is to provide an exemplary learning experience
that will allow each child to acquire the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes,
and values to become a successful, contributing member within our school*

2019-2020

What your child will be taught in Third Grade

This guide provides parents and guardians with an overview of the curriculum for third grade and provides a snapshot of the concepts and skills children will be taught in English Language Arts, social studies, mathematics, science, technology, library, art, music, physical education, health, and character education. The curriculum of the Commack Public Schools follows the guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Education (NYSED) and creates clear expectations for what your child should know and be able to do in these academic areas. Elementary teachers recognize that children develop at different rates socially, emotionally, and academically. Our program is designed to meet the needs of all learners. Knowing what your child is learning strengthens the partnership between you and your child's teachers.

English Language Arts

The program is based on the foundation that children learn through rich, meaningful and developmentally appropriate experiences with print. Our classrooms are rich with literature that provides children with the opportunity to expand reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Reading

- Continue to use decoding strategies, context clues, and self monitoring to gain meaning from text and extend vocabulary
- Engage in independent silent reading
- Read with fluency and expression
- Identify main idea, details, and cause and effect
- Begin to distinguish fact and opinion
- Make predictions, inferences, and draws conclusions
- Identify story elements: setting, character, problem, and solution
- Use evidence from the story to identify themes, analyze characters, and author's purpose
- Use graphic organizers in literature discussions
- Use the dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, and encyclopedia



Writing

- Begin to write organized fiction and non-fiction
- Write sentences in logical order and uses paragraphs
- Continue to use graphic organizers to plan
- Engage in narrative, expressive, expository, descriptive, and persuasive writing
- Explore writing through a variety of genres: poetry, friendly letters, book reviews, informational reports, etc
- Use capitalization and punctuation appropriately
- Identify and correctly use parts of speech including nouns, verbs, and adjectives
- Spell frequently used words accurately
- Continue to use the writing process: pre-writing, drafting, revising, proofreading, editing, and publishing
- Use writing for social communication



Listening/Speaking

- Listen, speak, and respond respectfully
- Listen attentively
- Listen to acquire information by drawing on prior knowledge and experience, determine the sequence of events, and to identify the main idea and supporting details
- Communicate ideas clearly using appropriate vocabulary, grammar, voice, and eye contact
- Actively participate in discussions
- Summarize and state ideas in a logical and sequential order



Social Studies

Geographic

- Locate continents and oceans
- Develop awareness of geographic features of earth
- Recognize how geographic features influence human needs and wants



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Political

- Recognize that communities form governments to develop rules and laws
- Develop awareness of the process of selecting leaders
- Continue to learn about current events

Social

- Develop respect for the diversity of the communities of the world
- Explore cultures, customs, traditions, and contributions of various countries

Economic

- Understand that people in all communities are producers and consumers of goods and services
- Recognize that human wants and needs differ from place to place and that communities are interdependent

Historical Events

- Recognize that world communities change over time
- Use primary documents
- Continue to learn about America

Mathematics

The program is structured on the principle that children are able to apply and adapt acquired mathematical ideas to new situations when they develop conceptual understanding. Conceptual understanding is understanding the 'why' in mathematics. Allowing children time to progress with concrete materials, followed by visual representations, will develop a strong number sense and a conceptual understanding.

Operations and Mathematical Thinking

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division
- Multiply and divide within 100
- Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic



Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic

Number and Operations

- Develop an understanding of fractions as numbers

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects
- Represent and interpret data
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and addition
- Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures

Geometry

- Reason with shapes and their attributes

Science

Inquiry, Skills and Process

- Demonstrate safety in science
- Communicate concepts through written, verbal and constructed models using scientific vocabulary

Life Science

- Investigate the life cycle of a butterfly and other organisms
- Understand the habitat and ecological needs of the butterfly in various stages
- Construct an argument that some animals for groups that help members survive
- Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all

Physical Science

- Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object
- Make observations of an object's motion to provide evidence that a pattern can be used to predict future motion

Earth and Space Science

- Use data in graphical displays and tables to describe typical weather conditions

Technology

- Continue to become more proficient in skills previously taught
- Begin to use the tutorial key board software, with emphasis on fingering
- Begin to use intermediate word processing software



Library

- Becomes more proficient in skills previously taught
- Identify and locate biographies
- Continue to use print and online encyclopedia and reference material
- Continue to use the library classification system
- Continue to appreciate literature through book talks and read-alouds

Art

Art provides children with opportunities to further creative expression and build language. Children will build self esteem through positive art experiences.

- Learn new color theories relative to the 20th Century
- Demonstrate skill in a variety of sculpture techniques
- Sharpen a sense of proportion in human and animal forms
- Express feelings through line, texture, color, and shape
- Broaden knowledge of artists
- Enjoy art as it is integrated into subject areas



Music

Music also provides children with opportunities for creative expression and movement.

- Learn that melodies use repeated sequence
- Learn that rhythm may have accents, change and be written out in beats of 2, 3, or 4
- Learn about harmony
- Learn that different periods of music have different forms
- Learn how music reflects different cultures
- Learn that instruments have different sounds and timbres



Physical Education

Physical Education provides children with the opportunity to learn the importance of exercise and good sportsmanship.

- Demonstrate knowledge of following rules and safety
- Learn to work cooperatively and develop the concept of fair play
- Develop motor skills and movement concepts
- Develop body and spatial awareness
- Develop listening skills
- Manipulate ropes, hoops, balls, and other equipment
- Engage in simple games and relays
- Develop specific sport skills such as catching, dribbling, and passing



Health and Character Education

Children will learn to make decisions regarding healthy behaviors.

- Continue to learn about nutrition, healthy life choices, and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse
- Continue to learn about safety, first aid, and cleanliness
- Begin to understand nutrition
- Continue to learn to demonstrate the importance of character: courtesy, honesty, attaining pride, responsibility, accountability, compassion, tolerance, endurance, and respect



Movement in the Arts

Movement in the Arts provides extra time for children during their school day to positively harness their energy, creates a healthy space to tap into their mindfulness, and aides in the success of their progress both in and out of their learning environment.

- Develop healthy strategies to promote overall success using physical, musical, and artistic outlets
- Demonstrates cooperative learning while promoting good sportsmanship and positive social behavior
- Establishes confidence while learning the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle
- Develops lifelong tools utilizing mindfulness to combat anxiety and stress
- Introduces basic movements, cooperative games, fitness, dance, drumming and yoga
- Develops the student's ability to control their body movements and minds

Guidelines for Homework Best Practice: Commack UFSD

Third Grade -Specific Guidelines

The following Guidelines for Homework Best Practices have been designed by Commack educators. Classroom teachers make important instructional decisions every day. These decisions are based on the specific needs of each child and can result in individualized differentiated homework assignments that may vary from, but continue to reflect, the guidelines as necessary and appropriate.

Homework Defined

Any assignment, written or otherwise, to be completed outside of the classroom.

Purpose and Benefits of Homework

The purpose of homework is the reinforcement, extension, and/or application of content and skills previously taught in school.

The Commack School District recognizes that homework may provide further benefits to students and their families. These may include the following:

- Providing families with insight regarding each child's learning;
- Developing responsibility and accountability;
- Fostering independent learning;
- Offering opportunities for confidence building; and
- Strengthening executive functioning skills (time management)

Important Notes About Third Grade Homework

- As the year progresses the children grow and mature. They develop more skills and gain stamina. Therefore, it is appropriate that homework may look different in June than it does in September. Homework may change in frequency and complexity.
- Other than specifically-designed, long-term assignments, homework is intended to be completed on a daily basis and reviewed in a timely manner.
- Although children all work at different paces, third grade homework is generally intended to add approximately thirty to thirty-five minutes of academic reinforcement outside the classroom. This means that on nights when homework is assigned, third graders may spend approximately thirty to thirty-five minutes on daily homework assignments. This is inclusive of written assignments, activities, and/or reading. Homework may or may not be assigned every night.
- Families are encouraged to contact the teacher directly regarding any difficulties with homework (too challenging, not challenging enough, time spent on assignments, unable to complete).

What Does Homework Look Like for a Third Grade Student In Commack?

- Homework for third grade students should be a developmentally-appropriate extension of concepts and skills taught in the classroom. Clear directions should be provided so students have the ability to complete homework assignments independently or with minimal assistance. Homework will be reviewed in a timely manner.
- Homework takes a variety of forms and structures. Typical daily assignments for a third grade student in Commack may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Math

- Workbook pages;
- Worksheets (teacher-made or published);
- Fact fluency practice;
- Math games/hands-on activities;
- Studying for tests or quizzes; and
- Review sheets.

English Language Arts (ELA)

- Independent reading (with or without extension activities);
- Reading response or log;
- Reading comprehension worksheets (teacher-made or published);
- Spelling/grammar practice (workbook, worksheets, notebook); and
- Studying for test or quizzes.

Social Studies or Science

- Vocabulary activities;
- Studying for test or quizzes;
- Reading in the content area (published or teacher-made worksheets); and
- Review sheets.

Long-term projects are defined as an activity assigned and due back at a certain date in the future rather than the next day. Such assignments will likely require additional adult supervision and support. Such assignments should include a clearly stated purpose and expectations for completion.

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