

Third Grade



Bible

The third-grade Bible curriculum is designed to strengthen the students' understanding of the Bible. This course includes biblical values that the students can apply to their own lives. We focus on the fruit of the Spirit and godly character traits. These values are learned through studying the lives of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, and Daniel. Monthly Bible verses enhance our in-class curriculum, and correlate with our chapel program.

Language Arts

We continue to learn about grammar, sentence structure, and writing mechanics through *Shurley English*. Composing a correctly formatted paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting facts and details and a conclusion, is learned and applied through publishing several pieces including a "how-to" essay, a persuasive essay, a biography report, and an animal report. Along with practicing cursive, we develop reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary through our literature anthologies and spelling curriculum. Monthly book reports give students an opportunity to learn about different genres including biographies, historical and realistic fiction, and mysteries. Throughout the year, we read several core literature novels, which correspond to our curriculum. These books include *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Charlotte's Web*.

History/Social Studies

Students study communities past and present, along with a classically-based study of American history. This study, which spans from King James through the Lewis and Clark Expedition includes a Revolutionary War unit, in which great Americans including George Washington, William Penn and Benjamin Franklin are studied. Each January, students learn about Martin Luther

King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. These studies set the foundation for more in-depth American History studies in fifth grade and junior high. In addition, students learn basic map reading skills including map parts such as compass rose, legend, map scale and titles. Field trips to Shadelands Ranch and the Ruth Bancroft Gardens allow students a chance to explore the people and places of our local history.

Math

The third-grade mathematics curriculum includes the information, skills and concepts required by California's state standards. The curriculum encompasses place value, money and time, addition and subtraction, multiplication concepts, geometry and measurement, division concepts, data and probability, fractions, decimals, and multiplying and dividing greater numbers. Mastery of multiplication facts is a goal. Students practice problem solving and critical thinking skills through multi-step word problems.

Science

We are using the FOSS Curriculum, which enables us to get involved with many hands-on experiments! The curriculum covers foundations for understanding adaptations in physical structure or behavior. Students enjoy learning about plants and snails, but crayfish are our favorites. Experimenting with flashlights, mirrors and reflective light helps them learn about the relationship between energy, matter, and light that has a source. They also study the patterns and movements of the sun, moon, and stars. These studies help them learn not only about science, but also give them opportunities to understand more about our amazing Creator, as they see His order, logic, and creativity in units which include, *Structures of Life, Matter and Energy, and Sun, Moon, and Stars*.