



3rd 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, Daniel and Ruth. 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 his peaceful commitment to

change the world. 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. A walking field trip to Shadelands Ranch provides 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

The hands-on FOSS Science Curriculum enables us to explore science in exciting ways. The curriculum covers foundations for understanding adaptations in physical structure or behavior. Students enjoy learning about plants and snails, but crayfish are our favorites. We visit the local Ruth Bancroft Garden for a up close experience with God's creativity in plants. Experimenting with flashlights, mirrors and reflective light helps them learn about the relationship between energy, matter, and light that has a source. Study of the patterns and movements of the sun, moon, and stars culminates with a trip to a planetarium. Third grade science provides opportunities to understand more about our amazing Creator, as students see His order, logic, and creativity in units which include, *Structures of Life, Matter and Energy*, and *Sun, Moon, and Stars*.