

# Your Child's Third Grade Experience

Our goal is for third grade students to become lifelong readers and writers, collaborate with others, and become passionate about sharing information.

## Reading Goals:

- Become independent readers and choose “just right” books
- Actively participate in literary discussion groups
- Read and comprehend a variety of genres in fiction and non-fiction texts
- Read with fluency and expression, expand vocabulary

**Book Buddies:** Your child is paired with an older student who becomes reading partner, role model and friend.

**Iditarod:** Your child researches a “musher” in the Iditarod.

Students love tracking their mushers using interactive online maps. They also participate in a reading race, logging results online with other students across the U.S.

## Writing Goals

- Become independent writers who can write for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Use Writers Workshop to complete narrative, expository, technical, and persuasive texts
- Write in cursive
- Use correct grammar, punctuation, and capitalization
- Correctly spell high frequency words and use spelling resources to spell more difficult words

**Student Treasures:** Third graders write and publish a book that becomes a treasured keepsake.

**Class Assembly:** You will watch as your child performs in an assembly written by third graders. Yearly class assemblies are one of the cornerstones of a Topeka Collegiate education, often cited as a reason our students feel comfortable in front of an audience.

## Social Studies Goals

- Become active, informed global citizens
- Appreciate the spatial organization of Earth
- Use tools to locate people, places, and environments
- Focus on U.S. geography: Identify states and capitals, recognize land forms, climates, resources, and value our neighbors
- Recognize shared ideals and diversity in society; understand the importance of laws
- Learn about and appreciate the U.S. Constitution
- Make effective decisions as a consumer, producer, saver and investor
- Participate in Kansas and school-wide cultural studies

**Rain Forest:** Third graders create their very own rain forest. Each student becomes an animal and habitat expert, giving personalized tours of the rain forest to educate other students, parents and visitors about the importance of saving this valuable habitat. This is a signature third grade event.

**State Travel Convention:** Students research a state in depth, then share what they discover during the state travel convention.

**Earth Day/Trash to Treasure Contest:** Third graders become advocates of taking care of the Earth. They sponsor a school-wide art contest to turn trash into treasure.

## Math

- Maintain automatic recall of basic addition and subtraction facts and fact extensions
- Regroup when computing multi-digit addition and subtraction problems
- Have automatic recall of certain multiplication facts and use strategies to compute the remaining facts up to X12
- Use strategies to solve 2-digit multiplication problems and multiply and divide with multiples of 10, 100, and 1000
- Read, write, compare and order whole numbers through millions; decimals through thousandths
- Organize, graph and interpret data
- Use US Customary and metric units for measuring
- Explore geometry
- Use ballpark estimates to predict and check answers
- Review fractions and develop a solid understanding of equivalent fractions
- Understand and apply basic concepts of probability
- Use solution strategies for number stories involving time and money

**Math Olympics:** Third graders represent a country, join in the colorful Parade of Nations, then visit various “countries” to participate in math games.

## Science

*Curriculum alternates with fourth grade*

### Science Goals (Even Year):

- Investigate matter through studies of sublimation (dry ice) and polymers (slime!)
- Delve into the world of electricity exploring how circuits work, electricity safety, and the difference between conductors and insulators

### Science Goals (Odd Year):

- Discover what weather is and where it happens through lessons about our atmosphere
- Find out about Mars exploration; the challenges and successes of different spacecraft

**Mars Pathfinder Model:** Students use what they learn about Mars exploration to build a model of the Mars Pathfinder, which carried the Sojourner Rover (one of the successes).

## Science (Every Year)

**EarthWorks:** Students work as part of a team to conduct experiments, research animals and habitats, and explore different fields of science, in preparation for a trip to EarthWorks, located in a limestone mine under Kansas City

**Ocean Study:** During a study of the ocean, students dissect squid.

## Technology Goals:

- Use various functions within the Microsoft Suite to type and illustrate books
- Use the Internet to research the Iditarod, rainforest animals, assigned states and other classroom theme-related topics.

## Evaluations:

Teachers are your partners in ensuring that your child is successful in second grade. They perform oral and written assessments, as well as informal evaluations to determine how each student is progressing.

Teachers are committed to making sure your child is offered help, encouragement and enrichment based on his or her individual learning needs.

## The Well-Rounded Education

Our resource instructors bring out the best in your child as part of a comprehensive, well-rounded third grade experience.

**Spanish:** Children become familiar with basic Spanish vocabulary through the study of colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, transportation, family, Latin American poetry and rhymes, music and songs.

**P.E.:** Students continue to work on improving their strength, with an emphasis on conditioning and more warm-ups and stretches.

**Music:** Students sing, move, play rhythm instruments, and are introduced to music reading skills, as they learn to appreciate and express themselves through music. Your child will perform in costume at the traditional Halloween Assembly and at the annual Grandparent/VIP Day celebration.

**Library:** Family Read Night brings students, families and guests to the library to share activities and discussions about a book they've read together.

**Art:** Students discover the basic elements of art, which are built upon as the move through the years. Every student's work is displayed at the Lower School Art Show.

## 3rd Grade Field Trips and Traditions

**Morning Meeting:** Students start the day with a morning meeting where they recite their daily affirmation, greet one another, share together and review the day's schedule.

**Festival of Trees:** Third graders give back to the community by decorating a tree for the Festival of Trees which raises money for Sheltered Living. Students make all the ornaments.

**Worm and Squid Dissections:** Third graders read and write about “How to Eat Fried Worms,” then work in teams to dissect worms.

**Green Circle:** Third graders learn empathy and understanding of other people in this four-session class.

**Omaha Zoo:** Students visit the rainforest at the Omaha Zoo as part of their in-depth rainforest study.