

THIRD GRADE

HANDBOOK

THE THIRD GRADE STATE

Third graders are passing from a state of childhood innocence to the early forms of thinking for themselves. The celestial angels are withdrawing and the spiritual angels are active. The states of affection, which pertain to the celestial, must, therefore, be infilled with knowledge. The child has an increasing capacity for abstract thinking, and is developing an awareness of cause-effect relationships and sequencing, yet there is a strong need to have everything grounded in the concrete. Your third grader is interested in details and particulars.

Third grade is a transitional year from childhood to pre-adolescent beginnings. Pre-adolescence can be a time of new and confusing feelings. Many children begin to change physically. Your child is becoming more aware of themselves and their peers. Trying to fit in and be accepted by peers may become important as the year continues.

The child needs to feel that the Lord loves them, and will help them in times of trouble. The child needs to gain a feeling of respect for the Lord's laws, and for His miraculous power. The religion curriculum reflects your child's state as the story of Exodus is all about the Lord leading the Israelites with themes of forgiveness and seeing the Lord as their Father who will always be with them guiding them toward the promised land of Canaan.

CURRICULUM

We teach many subjects in our curriculum. Many of the skills we teach are aligned with Pennsylvania State standards for education. Our teaching is guided by New Church philosophy about child development and pedagogy and is woven throughout the content we teach. This is a list of the subjects in our curriculum:

I. WORSHIP

Worship is the beginning of our day. It is the time set aside for religious instruction. The major part of our year is devoted to the Exodus and the wanderings of the children of Israel in the Wilderness.

The Lord as Shepherd, Law Giver and Redeemer

Review of Genesis

The Exodus

The Tabernacle

The Ten Commandments

Wandering in the Wilderness

Prophecies/fulfillment:

Christmas

Easter

June 19th

Spiritual World

Hebrew - We will be learning the First Commandment in Hebrew.

II. LANGUAGE ARTS

Literacy - We use The Daily Five literacy system in which each child reads books at their own level and speed. There is an emphasis on phonics, as the latest reading research shows that the most effective teaching methods for reading instruction include phonemic awareness. The spelling program we use organizes the word lists with this in mind.

Handwriting: We devote a half of the year reviewing lower case letters in cursive and improving confidence with cursive in general.

After Christmas break we require all work to be done in cursive. The second half of the year we teach the cursive upper case letters.

Composition/Journal-students will participate in many writing activities to

help strengthen their communication and grammar skills through written text. they will also learn research skills and learn to write different styles of poetry, friendly letters, and expository text.

Drama-There are several opportunities for students to use dramatize stories they have read in literacy class.

III. MATH -

- Place value
- Multi-digit addition, subtraction
- Multi-digit multiplication
- Geometry
- Simple Division
- Number Sense
- Problem Solving
- Estimation
- Measurement
- Time
- Graphing
- Money
- Fractions
- Memorize Basic Facts-Rocket Math (See Below)

Rocket Math is the program that our school uses to have students memorize the basic math facts. In third grade, we begin with subtraction, then review addition, and then the student moves to multiplication. It usually takes the average student the whole school year to complete a single operation and gain automaticity in subtraction. When a student does not meet his/or her goal in Rocket Math, they are to take the rest of the page home and complete the problems untimed. This usually takes 2-3 minutes. They are to return it the following day with their other homework. If they meet their goal that day, they take no page home and move up a letter on the rocket for the following day's test.

IV. Specialist Classes are taught outside the classroom and are as follows:

- ART – One hour per week
- MUSIC-Three 30 minute periods per week
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION-Three 30 minute periods per week

V. SOCIAL STUDIES

- Life in a Community – Our community, The Grand Man (heavenly community, Children of Israel, Ancient Greece
- Pioneers
- Heroes
- Mythology
- Introductory Map Skills

The doctrine of the Lord is considered to be central to the social studies in the primary grades. It is the Lord the Redeemer who is stressed in third grade because the religion course covers the books of Exodus through Deuteronomy, relating how the Lord brought the children of Israel out of Egypt and led them during the years in the wilderness. This also includes the giving of the Ten Commandments, and the concept of law is most important in this grade. Children are learning to be obedient to the Lord's laws if they are to develop skills, knowledge, and character. The children also must understand the Lord forgives for making mistakes. This is seen throughout the studies of Children of Israel in the wilderness. The children can see a parallel in their own lives through this story.

Ancient Greek Mythology and gods and goddesses are studied looking towards the goods and truths within the stories.. We also study heroes who were actual historical figures. Heroes are those who do wonderful things by using both the wisdom the Lord has given them and the power to act according to His laws. This can include people of modern times too, of course. The emphasis is on the Lord as the one true hero, and all the wonderful qualities He has are given to people.

VII. SCIENCE

A major theme of third grade is seeing series and cycles in the Lord's kingdom. Our aim is to inspire a sense of wonder and appreciation for creation and its variety and order.

- Insects
- Astronomy
- Five Senses
- Precious Gems
- Circulatory System
- Amphibians
- Reptiles
- Dinosaurs

HOMEWORK

The Bryn Athyn Church School requires that third graders do 35 minutes of homework Monday through Thursday.

- Monday - Spelling Page
- Tuesday - Math
- Wednesday - Map Skills/Science
- Thursday - Study for Spelling Test

Monday-Thursday –Rocket Math if the student does not meet their personal daily goal. 2-3 minutes is the time it should take to complete the page.

This part of their homework should take 12 minutes. After working *diligently* for 10 minutes they should stop.

Every day - 15 minutes independent reading

- Study recitation – 5 minutes – say it several times
- Write in journal – 5 minutes of solid writing -please use idea page or journal prompt website on class webpage

Homework is due on the day following the assignment except for recitations, which are due the following Friday. If your child forgets his homework they will be given a day to get it done. If the homework does not come in the next day, they will miss recess until it is done and handed in. If they habitually forget homework, they may need to lose recess privileges on each day that homework is missing. If your child starts to miss recess often because of incomplete homework, we will contact you so that we can work together to support your child. Those who do not say recitations on time will miss recess to practice the recitation. If your child has a legitimate reason for not completing his homework, please write a note, or email with an explanation. Your child will not miss recess but will still be responsible for completing the assignment. *Please know that we do everything possible to see that your child gets a recess break.*

Homework should not be folded, crumpled, or have food stains. All homework should be done in pencil. School bags are a school requirement.

Monday - Spelling Page

Tuesday - Math

Wednesday – Surprise (Most times this will be Map Skills, Social Studies, or Science)

There will be a different assignment each week covering a variety of subject areas.

Thursday - Study for spelling test

Spelling Study Procedures

Your child should practice all the spelling words on his spelling list every Thursday night. Following is the procedure for learning these words:

Look at the word.

In Your Mind see the word and spell it to yourself.

Check to see if you spelled it correctly.

On Paper write the word without looking at it.

Check to see if you spelled it correctly.

(This should be repeated if the word is not written correctly.)

Independent Reading

Independent reading is an important part of the learning process. It gives your child reading practice and a chance to share reading with his family. They should read at least 15 minutes every night.

Journals

We ask the children to write in their journals nightly. This improves their language skills and also helps me to communicate with them one on one. We encourage the children to write about things that are interesting to them. We respond in their journals weekly. Please encourage your child to freely write without being overly concerned about spelling. This gives them a chance to just practice writing their ideas down without getting too caught up in the mechanics of writing. There will be other opportunities when that is important, but the journal is a tool to practice written expression. If your child is having trouble thinking of what to write, please help them to remember to use the idea page at the front of their journal.

THE GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The grandparent program is a third grade highlight. It helps the children to develop relationships with older people in the community. The grandparents help the children learn by providing correspondents for letters, supplementing our curriculum by sharing experience and knowledge with us, and providing a chance for meaningful connections while improving communication skills.

We invite grandparents into our classrooms about once a month. The children will be asked to provide refreshments for these gatherings. A sign-up genius will be sent through email to help organize this.

SNACKS and LUNCHES

Please make sure your child has a substantial snack for morning recess and a water bottle to drink from throughout the day. They get very hungry during the busy school morning. Please refrain from bringing glass containers to school. Two microwaves are available in the classroom to use for heating lunches. Please keep the food manageable so your child can prepare their lunch independently. Microwave lunches should take a minute or less to heat. When the weather is nice, we will picnic outside our classrooms, so please bring a towel for your child to sit on during lunch when we do go outside.

SUPPORT

Academic support is available for students who find certain aspects of school challenging. This could be in the area of speech, math, and/or reading, and counseling is available for emotional support if necessary in agreement with the teacher, parents and support staff. Your child will be screened for reading and math progress once per term to determine their instructional needs. The results are kept confidential and not shared with students. You may find out the results during conferences and these results may appear on report cards at the end of each term.

DRESS CODE

The BACS dress code is available to every parent on the school website. The children should have shoes appropriate for running in the gym on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday so that they may participate in P.E.

We ask for your co-operation in helping your child abide by the dress code. In the primary unit we will be sending home a note to parents if there is a dress code issue. If the violation continues we will call parents. In third grade we will not give disciplinary action for dress code violations. We will, however, contact you with a friendly email to let you know the issue. In the spring especially, we see lots of holes in pants and skirts getting shorter. We will let you know of anything that comes up and will not speak directly to your child to avoid embarrassment. Please read over the dress code resource on the school webpage.

We hope your child will be happy in Third Grade. If something appears to be bothering them or you, please don't hesitate to contact us. You may leave a message on the school phone during the day, or email. If we are not available to answer the phone, please leave a message on the voice mail. During school hours we will only check our messages after school so if you need something during the day please call the school office. Email is the best way to contact us for the most immediate results. If something is urgent, please reach the school secretary.

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