

Third Grade

Third grade is an industrious year of practical exploration for the students. From studies of the measurement of time, linear measurement and money to the studies of grains, shelters and fibers and the harvesting and cooking with the food their gardens produced; the students are immersed in a number of varied, hands on experiences of practical life. Over the course of the year, the students experience several parts of the curriculum from its origins to a finished product.

The students explore the Jewish culture through the celebration of the festivals of Sukkoth and Hanukkah, including cooking traditional food for these celebrations. They also sing and play Hebrew songs on the flute throughout the year. They dance the horah and hear many Jewish stories including the stories from the Old Testament. They light the menorah during the days of Hanukkah and play dreidel.

The emphasis in Third grade mathematics is the quickening and mastery of foundational skills, the expansion of skill in the processes of multiplication and division, and the introduction of measure. Students also begin to learn to record information in basic graphs and tables.

Third grade students continue to develop creative and logical problem solving through problems presented by their teacher orally and solved mentally, and through practical math activities. Third grade students learn the multiplication tables up to 12 and to the multiple of 12, in sequence and randomly. Alongside multiplication table practice, students demonstrate a strong understanding for the opposite equations in division. They count by numbers beginning out of sequence, such as counting by 3, beginning with the number 5. Students master the automatic recall of what adds up to 10, doubles (9+9) and doubles minus one (9+8). They learn how to multiply numbers ending in zero easily, by first removing the zeroes. Students learn to estimate by rounding numbers. Third grade students learn multiple digit multiplication and long division. Students also learn about the measurement of time, linear measurement, weight, fluid and dry measure and money over the course of their third grade year.

Students in the third grade are writers! Students write their own summaries of the subjects they are studying, and record these in their main lesson books, with accompanying illustrations. They write poetry and descriptive prose. Students write from dictation, the teacher's example, and their own inspiration. They learn to write in paragraphs and begin learning how to organize and map their writing projects. Students continue to learn punctuation, grammar and spelling, including continued work with phonics. Students in third grade are beginning to make the transition from learning to read, to reading to learn, as they continue to read ever increasingly complex material. Students recite poetry and verse and perform in a class play.

In addition to the many practical craft activities inherent in the third grade curriculum, students paint with watercolors, model with beeswax or clay, and learn shaded pencil drawing. The students learn to crochet in their handwork classes.

The students begin to sing in rounds and continue playing the pentatonic or c flute. In third grade, students begin to learn musical notation.

Students learn folk dances as part of their physical education. They participate in increasingly challenging games, building both social skills and the basic skills needed for playing sports in higher grades. They garden, build and venture out into the community on curriculum related field trips.

The subjects presented by the class teacher are supplemented by specialty classes in Spanish, handwork and eurythmy.