

3RD & 4TH GRADE

Religion

Children will focus their studies on how we live our faith as Catholic Christians. Students learn that we are welcomed into the Church with the Sacrament of Baptism and continue to grow in our relationship with God through the other Sacraments. Students also discover that God gave us the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes to guide us in our daily lives. The students are also exposed to the lives of the saints who serve as wonderful Catholic role models. Through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, students are able to live their faith and engage in service projects which focus on these principles. Students experience formal and informal prayer on a daily basis and participate in a weekly Mass and prayer services periodically throughout the year.

Language Arts

Third and fourth grade are focused on four main principles: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In writing class, we study many different components of grammar and the parts of speech. The students are expected to apply these skills to their writing assignments. Throughout the year, the students will have the opportunity to write in many different literary genres (narrative, descriptive, explanatory, poetry, expository, etc.) and to take many of their pieces through the writing process. Students will share their writing pieces, therefore allowing them the chance to practice their speaking and listening skills.

Reading

In third grade Reading class, we are building lifelong interest in reading for information and enjoyment. The students experience a variety of materials and genres; they develop an understanding of techniques of different authors and illustrators. The student demonstrates fluent oral reading using sight words and decoding skills, and constructs literal meaning and understands inferential meaning. The student employs a variety of cues to unlock meaning and make sense of print. These include semantic cues (visual aids and context), structural cues (what sounds right), and grapho-phonetic cues (letter/sound relationships), through daily practice.

In fourth grade Reading the focus switches to reading to learn new information. With that switch in focus there is also a switch in skills taught. The skills are of a higher level of thinking - like inferences, comparing and contrasting, and cause and effect. In fourth grade Reading students are exposed to different genres of literature. They will read different novels like Frindle, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, and Sarah, Plain and Tall. These are favorites from year to year. They will also read different novels that tie into the Social Studies or Science curriculum, There's an Owl in the Shower and Earthquake, which is the story of the Great San Francisco earthquake. While reading these novels, skills such as main idea, cause/effect, predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, sequencing, and making inferences are reviewed. Students are also taught how to use their textbooks to get information.

Math

In third grade we will be focusing on six common core standards associated with mathematics:

1. Number Sense (understanding the number system as the basis for mathematics while expanding their knowledge of place value system to count, equivalent fractions, and beginning to develop concept of decimals).
2. Computation (learn whole numbers up to 1000, develop concept of multiplication and division with basic supporting facts, and make predictions).
3. Algebra and Functions/Data Analysis (connect the relationship with numeric equations to solve problems as well as learn to create and analyze data).
4. Geometry (learn about geometric shapes, develop a sense of space, identify two-dimensional shapes, and create, analyze and represent patterns and relationships).
5. Measurement (measure lengths, add units of length, find perimeter, and areas of shapes, as well as know the value of coins and dollars using

economic decisions). 6. Problem Solving (choose how to approach a problem, explain a solutions, and check results). In fourth grade we will be focusing on 5 common core standards associated with mathematics: 1. Basic Facts and Algebraic Thinking (extend their understanding of the place value system to count, read, and write numbers up to 1,000,000 and decimals in two places as well as extend skills with decimals relating to fractions). 2. Multiplication Operations and Base Ten (students will learn to multiply multi-digit numbers with fluency, and determine the appropriateness of estimates versus exact numbers). 3. Fractions and Decimals (learn to apply and extend understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers, understand the decimal notation for fractions and compare decimal fractions). 4. Measurement and Data (solve problems involving measurement and conversions of measurements from a larger to smaller unit, learn to apply the area and perimeter formulas, and learn to measure angles in whole numbers using protractors). 5. Geometry (draw and identify lines and angles as well as classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles).

Science/Health

Science will provide the third grade students many opportunities to participate in hands-on activities and to investigate, make hypotheses, test ideas, and draw conclusions. We will develop an understanding of the various areas of science: Earth/Space Science, Life Science, and Physical Science. In third grade our main concentration will be Reptiles, General Solar System, Water Cycle, Rocks and Minerals, Matter (Solid, Liquids, and Gases), Weather, and Natural Resources and Energy. In health the students will study severe weather, safety with medications and poisons, and recognizing each person's basic right to bodily privacy and respect. In fourth grade science, students will do in-depth studies of ecosystems around the world. They will explore the plants, animals, and environment of each of these ecosystems. They will also explore the six types of simple machines. In health, students identify many different communicable and non-communicable diseases. They take time to look at their own lifestyle habits as they learn about healthy exercise and eating practices. Lastly, students learn about pollution and how it affects their health.

Social Studies

In third grade Social Studies our main focus will be on the geography and culture of Australia and Antarctica. We will study map skills and continue to use the globe. Students will also learn about Native Americans, Presidents, Black History, government, and the economy. In fourth grade, the students experience a big transition with regards to the content areas of Social Studies and Science. Students will spend an average of 200 minutes per week in each of these areas. Students make flash cards, create note cards to review, and begin to take notes for new information. We also work with the students on how to manage and schedule their time in a wise way. With a heavier emphasis on study skills, students will hopefully be able to use these skills throughout their life. Fourth grade Social Studies finds the students focusing on two areas. They will explore the state of Ohio from its earliest people to statehood and beyond. They will identify the geographical regions of Ohio, its natural resources, and its economy. They will also learn about the five regions of the United States. They will concentrate on the geography, the natural resources, the economy, the climate and some of the interesting places to visit in each region. They will take map tests over the five regions and end the year with a map test over all 50 states. The map tests include location, capitals, and abbreviations.