

A Parent's Guide To

GRADE 3

CURRICULUM



Reading + Writing + Mathematics + Science + Social Studies

Introduction

Research shows that children are more likely to succeed in learning when families actively support them. When you and other family members read with your children, help them with homework, talk with their teachers, and participate in school or other learning activities, you give your children a tremendous advantage. Other than helping your children grow up healthy and happy, the most important thing that you can do for them is help them develop their reading skills. It is no exaggeration to say that how well children learn to read directly affects not only how successful they are in school but how well they will do throughout their lives. When children learn to read, they have the key that opens the door to all of the knowledge of the world.

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Our goal in this guide is to give you greater visibility into the *Forward* instructional program. We believe that the gains your child experiences in this program will establish the building blocks for his or her love of learning in the months and years to come.

Grade 3 Integrated Curriculum

The **Elementary Integrated Curriculum** blends reading, writing, and mathematics instruction with lessons in science and social studies in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills. Students will receive robust instruction across all subjects in the early grades. The curriculum is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills as well as essential academic success skills, which lead to college and career readiness.

In the *Grade 3 Integrated Curriculum*, critical and creative thinking skills as well as academic success skills are identified and paced into four parts that are each nine weeks in duration. These skills are explicitly taught using concepts and topics identified by part in each content area and provide a focus for integration across content areas. This document provides an outline of these skills and the curriculum concepts and topics that are the focus of instruction for Grade 3 students.

K–5 Instructional Program Goals

Reading

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, who are capable of controlling language effectively, in the following ways:

- ✓ Strategically reading literary and informational instructional-leveled texts with fluency, purpose, and comprehension
- ✓ Using skills and strategies widely as tools for learning and reflection
- ✓ Understanding and appreciating language and literature as catalysts for deep thought and emotion

Writing

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, who are capable of controlling language effectively, in the following ways:

- ✓ Composing narrative, informative/explanatory, and opinion texts as tools for learning and reflection
- ✓ Conducting research and writing projects for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences
- ✓ Evaluating relevant information from print and digital sources and using a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing

Mathematics

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to achieving mathematical proficiency in the following ways:

- ✓ Developing both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency
- ✓ Thinking and reasoning mathematically
- ✓ Using mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts

Science

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate in science and technology in the following ways:

- ✓ Thinking critically, solving problems, and communicating effectively
- ✓ Tackling increasingly challenging issues
- ✓ Seeking understanding to support solutions

Social Studies

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to developing a balanced and integrated understanding of systems of culture, economics, geography, and politics and the history of their development in the following ways:

- ✓ Applying concepts and knowledge of the past to problem solving real-world issues of the present
- ✓ Critically examining human interactions and evaluating their role as an effective citizen
- ✓ Communicating social studies concepts clearly in multiple formats and putting theory into practice as a citizen

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
ANALYSIS	COLLABORATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify and describe patterns and the relationships within patterns. ✓ Identify relationships among parts of a whole. ✓ Infer and explain meaning to make sense of parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Demonstrate teamwork by working productively with others. ✓ Define and identify steps to reach a group goal. ✓ Identify and analyze options for sharing responsibility to reach a group goal. ✓ Demonstrate the characteristics of both a group leader and a group member.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
<p>Comprehension of literary text (realistic fiction): ask and answer questions; make inferences about characters; describe how characters influence sequence of events; distinguish point of view; contributions of visual elements</p> <p>Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: main idea and details; cause-and-effect relationships</p> <p>Vocabulary: high-frequency words; context clues; affixes; base words; word nuance; digital reference sources; academic and content-specific vocabulary</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>Handwriting</p>	<p>Writing workshops: narrative; informative/explanatory text; opinion</p> <p>Ideas & development: develop and organize ideas; plot; dialogue; gather facts; use facts to support opinions; conclusions; prewriting; drafting; editing; revision</p> <p>Word choice: pronouns; subject-verb agreement; pronoun-antecedent agreement; contractions and possessives; proper nouns; conjunctions; irregular nouns</p> <p>Conventions: capitalization; punctuation; spelling; digital tools; source citation; sentence fluency; organizational methods; multimedia presentation</p>	<p>Addition table patterns: properties of operations</p> <p>Rounding (within 1,000): nearest 100; round 2-digit and 3-digit numbers to nearest 10 or 100</p> <p>Addition fluency within 1,000</p> <p>Subtraction fluency within 1,000</p> <p>Addition and subtraction word problems (two steps)</p> <p>Area of rectangles</p> <p>Multiplication (within 100)</p> <p>Division (within 100)</p>	<p>Force and motion</p> <p>Balanced and unbalanced forces</p> <p>Magnetism</p> <p>Effect of friction and gravity on motion of objects</p> <p>Speed and distance of objects</p> <p>Explain how different tools and materials are used to carry out tasks</p> <p>Design process</p>	<p>Characteristics of communities</p> <p>How communities have changed over time</p> <p>Comparison of rural, suburban, and urban communities</p> <p>Map skills</p> <p>Landforms and bodies of water</p> <p>Geographic features of regions</p> <p>Climate</p> <p>Natural resources</p> <p>Human impact on the environment</p>

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
EVALUATION	METACOGNITION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Rank options based on criteria. ✓ Select and test possible alternatives. ✓ Justify a choice or solution based on criteria using evidence and reason. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Explain thinking processes. ✓ Self-monitor strategies to assess progress and apply new thinking. ✓ Seek clarification and adapt strategies to attain learning task/ outcome.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
<p>Comprehension of literary text (poetry; plays): ask and answer questions; comparison texts; point of view; compare poetry to play; setting; key details to determine central message; text structure</p> <p>Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: information from illustrations; text features; main idea and key details; point of view; comparison of texts</p> <p>Vocabulary: literal and nonliteral meanings; word nuance; context clues; affixes; root words; reference tools</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>Handwriting</p>	<p>Writing workshops: narrative (poetry); informative text; opinion</p> <p>Ideas & development: sequence of events; descriptive details; narrow topic; research multiple sources; drafting; conclusion; revision; editing; peer feedback</p> <p>Word choice: similes and metaphors; verb tense; temporal words; subject-verb agreement; pronoun-antecedent agreement; verbs; linking words; plural nouns; conventions of spoken and written English</p> <p>Conventions: voice; sentence fluency; audiovisual presentation</p>	<p>Multiplication and division models and fluency (within 100)</p> <p>Multiplication table patterns: properties of operations</p> <p>Multiplication and division word problems (one step)</p> <p>Multiplication and division equations</p> <p>Area of rectangles</p> <p>Area: rectilinear figures</p> <p>Distributive property</p> <p>Partition shapes</p> <p>Unit fractions (numerator of 1)</p> <p>Building fractions from unit fractions (Grade 3 limited to denominators of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8)</p>	<p>Physical properties of materials</p> <p>Effects of heating and cooling on objects</p> <p>Effect of heating and cooling technology on society</p> <p>Properties of mixtures</p> <p>Technologies used to produce desired physical changes</p> <p>Understand how technology of materials has changed over time</p>	<p>America’s first peoples (Iroquois; Cherokee; Chumash)</p> <p>Interactions between Europeans and Native Americans</p> <p>Effects of geography on Native Americans</p> <p>Notable European explorers in North America</p> <p>Early Spanish communities in North America</p> <p>Early French communities in North America</p> <p>The French & Indian War</p> <p>English colonies in North America</p> <p>Causes and key events of the American Revolution</p> <p>Principles in the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution</p> <p>Democracy</p> <p>Structure of federal, state, and local governments</p>

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
ORIGINALITY	INTELLECTUAL RISK TAKING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create a new idea, process, or product using multiple and varied formats. ✓ Plan and formulate a new, unique, or alternative solution to a problem or situation. ✓ Transform an idea, process, or product into a new form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adapt and make adjustments to meet challenges when seeking solutions. ✓ Demonstrate willingness to accept uncertainty by sharing ideas, asking questions, or attempting novel tasks. ✓ Challenge self to advance skill level.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
<p>Comprehension of literary text (historical fiction; realistic fiction): key details; plot structure; characters and their actions; point of view; central message; compare stories to historical events; contribution of visual elements to story; comparison of stories</p> <p>Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: text organization; text features; main idea and supporting details; compare text to newspaper accounts; search tools; comparison of texts</p> <p>Vocabulary: high-frequency words; word nuances; context clues; suffixes; root words; literal and nonliteral meanings; reference sources</p> <p>Phonics</p> <p>Handwriting</p>	<p>Writing workshops: opinion; informative text; narrative (realistic fiction; picture book)</p> <p>Ideas & development: organization; develop opinion based on facts; analyze evidence; central message; problem-solution structure; conclusion; create illustrations; sequence of events; develop characters; plot; prewriting; drafting; revision; editing; peer editing</p> <p>Word choice: irregular verbs; verb tense; adjectives and adverbs; conjunctions; subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement</p> <p>Conventions: sentence fluency; punctuation; dialogue; sentence fluency; publishing technology; presentation</p>	<p>Fraction representations on a number line (grade 3 limited to denominators of 2, 3, 4, 6, 8)</p> <p>Linear measurement: nearest half and fourth of an inch</p> <p>Measurement data: line plots</p> <p>Equivalent fractions: visual fraction models; number line models</p> <p>Comparison of fractions: same numerator and denominator</p> <p>Fraction representations of whole numbers</p> <p>Multiplication and division fluency (within 100): factors of 9–100</p> <p>Multiplication: 1-digit numbers by multiples of 10 (10–90); place-value strategies and associative property</p>	<p>Objects that give off light and heat</p> <p>Effects of technology on society (light & heat; electrical)</p> <p>Objects that use electricity to produce light and heat</p> <p>Fuels that produce light and heat</p> <p>Investigate how a building’s design influences how it is heated</p> <p>Thermal energy</p> <p>Insulators and conductors</p> <p>Develop a project using the design process</p> <p>Classification of plants and animals</p>	<p>Innovations in transportation that have influenced U.S. growth</p> <p>Lewis and Clark and Sacagawea</p> <p>Modes of transportation of goods and people (trails; waterways; railroads; roads)</p> <p>Expansion into the American West</p> <p>Influence of immigrants on American society</p> <p>Significance of the Statue of Liberty</p> <p>Innovations in communication that have influenced U.S. growth</p> <p>The Pony Express</p> <p>Impact of the telephone, telegraph, radio, television, and computer technology</p> <p>Key figures in the struggle for human rights</p> <p>Rights and responsibilities of American citizens</p> <p>Plan an activity that creates positive change in your community</p>

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
ELABORATION	EFFORT, MOTIVATION, AND PERSISTENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance thoughts, ideas, processes, or products by adding details. Demonstrate thoughts, ideas, processes, or products by using different forms of communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify an achievable, yet challenging goal. Identify and describe the outcome of a goal. Identify the components of goal setting. Develop and demonstrate a sequenced program of action to achieve a goal or solve a problem.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
<p>Comprehension of literary text (folktales; myths; tall tales; fables): central message conveyed through key details; comparison of stories from different cultures; comparison of stories by same author; comparison of a traditional story to a modern retelling</p> <p>Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: comparison of biography and autobiography on the same subject; text features; sequence of events; main idea and key details; point of view; comparison of text to multimedia presentation; technical texts</p> <p>Vocabulary: high-frequency words; academic and domain-specific vocabulary; word nuances; context clues; signal words; root words; similes and metaphors</p> <p>Handwriting</p>	<p>Writing workshops: informative text; opinion; personal narrative</p> <p>Ideas & development: narrow topic; organize sources for research; evaluate information; develop topic; research questions; state an opinion; logical sequence of ideas; use reasons and evidence; add or delete information for clarity; drafting; revision; editing; peer editing; presentation</p> <p>Word choice: concrete and abstract nouns; words for effect; pronoun-antecedent agreement; linking words; adjectives; nouns; possessive nouns</p> <p>Conventions: punctuation; spelling; capitalization; digital tools; graphic organizers; business letters; citations; audio and visual presentations; digital tools</p>	<p>Two-step word problems (all operations): unknowns in all positions</p> <p>Multiplication and division fluency (within 100): facts with 0–10</p> <p>Telling and writing time: to nearest minute</p> <p>Measurement and estimation: liquid volume (liters)</p> <p>Word problems: addition and subtraction of time intervals in minutes</p> <p>Measurement and estimation: mass (grams, kilograms)</p> <p>One-step word problems (all operations): mass or volume in same units</p> <p>Subcategories of quadrilaterals: attributes shared and not shared</p> <p>Perimeters of polygons</p> <p>Rectangles</p> <p>Scaled pictures and bar graphs</p>	<p>Habitats of plants and animals</p> <p>Needs of plants and animals</p> <p>Impact of plants and animals on their environments</p> <p>How humans use natural resources to meet their needs</p> <p>Life cycle of a product and the effect of technology on the life cycle</p> <p>Recycling and its effects</p> <p>Decomposition of organic and inorganic materials</p> <p>Describe what happens to materials after they are thrown in the trash</p> <p>Understand how technology influences people’s decisions about products</p>	<p>Human needs and wants</p> <p>Scarcity and abundance</p> <p>Goods and services</p> <p>Producers and consumers in an economy</p> <p>Natural, human, and capital resources</p> <p>Markets</p> <p>Global markets</p> <p>Consumer earning, spending, and saving</p> <p>Currency</p> <p>Understand the production process and how businesses use resources</p> <p>Elements of culture</p> <p>Cultures of North America</p> <p>Identify how the arts contribute to culture</p> <p>Celebrations that represent cultural values</p> <p>Diversity in the United States</p> <p>Cultures borrowing from other cultures</p>