

# Welcome to Third Grade!

## Parent Guide to Third Grade Curriculum

*This guide provides an overview of the third grade curriculum. It is organized by subject area and outlines the end of the year learning goals. Subject areas are listed in bold. Below each subject area are over-arching concepts that are taught kindergarten through sixth grade. Under each of these concepts are the learning goals specific to third grade.*



*The mission of the Curriculum and Instruction Team is to provide leadership in teaching and learning in order to insure delivery of a comprehensive, engaging, and technologically rich curriculum which promotes learning for all and prepares students for their roles as citizens and future leaders.*



## School District of Waukesha Elementary Schools

### **BANTING**

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(262) 970-1200

### **BETHESDA**

730 S. University Dr., 53188  
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### **BLAIR**

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### **HADFIELD**

733 Linden St., 53186  
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### **HAWTHORNE**

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### **HEYER**

1209 Heyer Dr., 53186  
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### **HILLCREST**

2200 Davidson Rd., 53186  
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### **LOWELL**

140 N. Grandview Blvd., 53188  
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### **MEADOWBROOK**

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175 S. Barker Rd., 53045  
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### **PRAIRIE**

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114 S. Charles St., 53186  
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W273 S3845 Brookhill Dr., 53189  
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### **SARATOGA**

130 Walton Ave., 53186  
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### **SUMMIT VIEW**

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### **WHITE ROCK**

1150 White Rock Ave., 53186  
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### **WHITTIER**

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### **DISTRICT OFFICE**

222 Maple Ave., 53186  
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# READING

## **Students will read for pleasure and to learn new information.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Self-select materials that satisfy personal needs and enjoyment
- Read independently for 30-45 minutes
- Share responses to print in a variety of ways

## **Students will read critically to comprehend both fiction and non-fiction texts.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use appropriate comprehension strategies before, during and after reading to enhance understanding of text
- Preview text to set purpose for reading
- Make self-to-text, text-to-text connections and text-to-world connections
- Monitor reading by rereading, self-correcting and clarifying confusions
- Ask and answer literal and inferential questions
- Determine author's purpose
- Create and adapt mental images using the five senses
- Determine the meaning of words in context
- Make, confirm and revise predictions
- Distinguish between fiction and non-fiction text
- Discriminate between important and unimportant information
- Locate specific information
- Summarize a sequence of events
- Evaluate text and draw conclusions
- Interpret poetry
- Recognize text organization such as sequential order, compare/contrast, cause/ effect and definitions and examples
- Identify and discuss story elements such as character, setting, problem, solution, main idea, theme and plot
- Recognize fiction, non-fiction, poetry and realistic fiction
- Demonstrate evidence of understanding using post-it notes,

graphic organizers, participating in book discussion and conferring with the teacher and peers

## **Students will apply vocabulary, reading strategies, knowledge of phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding skills to read new and familiar text.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Decode complex words using less common word patterns and knowledge of prefixes and suffixes
- Use background knowledge, context, pictures, diagrams and charts
- Apply new vocabulary in discussion and writing
- Identify and use synonyms, antonyms, homophones and homographs, multiple meaning words, prefixes and suffixes and content-area vocabulary
- Read smoothly and accurately with appropriate expression, intonation and volume

# WRITING

## **Students will be able to: produce writing to communicate for a variety of purposes.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Demonstrate independence in choosing own topic from a self-generated list of ideas
- Create appropriate graphic organizer to structure writing
- Use a variety of prewriting strategies (graphic organizers, interviews, and questions)
- Organize ideas and write using a beginning, middle and end, or an introduction, body and conclusion
- Use conventional spelling to write complete sentences adding descriptive details
- Participate in short focused conferences to share writing and to identify areas to change or improve
- Use checklists, rubrics/scoring guides to improve writing
- Spell frequently used words correctly

- Use legible handwriting
- Use ending punctuation (.?!)
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun I, proper names, days, months, holidays, story titles, titles of address, the greeting and closing of a friendly letter
- Use commas in a series, and apostrophes to show possession
- Use resources for editing
- Use editorial symbols
- Publish selected pieces at least once per quarter using a variety of formats and technologies
- Produce personal narratives, stories, informational writing, descriptive writing, letters, and poetry

## ORAL LANGUAGE

**Students will communicate information, opinions, and ideas to different audiences for a variety of purposes.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Articulate clearly, making eye contact using appropriate volume and rate
- Stay on topic using complete sentences and standard grammar
- Demonstrate understanding of story and story elements
- Participate in discussions, social conversations, and ask and answer both literal and inferential questions
- Follow multi-step directions
- Give informative reports using visual support

## MATH

**Students will use a variety of clear and effective strategies to solve problems, communicate mathematical ideas, and apply math to the real world.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use a variety of strategies to solve problems efficiently and evaluate reasonableness of results
- Develop fluency and flexibility with numbers, calculations, data analysis, and various representations
- Use grade level vocabulary to communicate ideas and reasoning with varying representations

**Students will group, order, and compare amounts.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Count, read, write, order and apply place value to numbers to 10,000
- Count, write, represent order, make change using coins and bills to \$10.00
- Represent one whole when given fractional part of  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{3}$ , or  $\frac{1}{4}$
- Apply place value concepts to renaming and expanded forms
- Solve 3-digit addition and subtraction problems in everyday situations and determine reasonableness of answers
- Demonstrate and solve multiplication problems using arrays and repeated addition
- Read and write decimals to tenths and convert to equivalent fractions
- Demonstrate and solve division problems using repeated subtraction

**Students will collect, organize, display and analyze data in an effective and unbiased way.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Collect, organize, and analyze real world data in point graphs to draw conclusions

- Explore what data to collect and best fit lines
- Apply concepts of probability to design fair and unfair spinners

**Students will identify similarities and differences among geometric figures and relationships.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Create 2-D shapes
- Identify, describe and compare 2-D and 3-D shapes (using sides, faces, vertices, edges, and right angles)
- Apply concepts of flips, slides, and turns to match congruent shapes
- Identify cubes and square-based pyramids from nets
- Use simple 2-D coordinates to find locations on maps and use coordinate letters and numbers to represent points
- Identify and use x and y axes on graphs

**Students will know what to measure and how to measure.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use appropriate units to measure and compare length, time, volume, area, perimeter, temperature, and weight
- Tell time to nearest minute (analog and digital)
- Measure area and perimeter to the nearest 1/2 in. and cm.
- Read thermometer to nearest 5° (F/C)
- Find elapsed time (multiples of 15 minutes)

**Students will use patterns and symbols to share ideas.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use base 10 notations to represent thinking (addition, subtraction, and multiplication)
- Use commutative property and the properties of zero and one with multiplication

## SCIENCE

**Students will understand the fundamental knowledge, concepts, principles and interconnections of life, physical and earth/space sciences.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Develop a working knowledge of key vocabulary related to units of study
- Compare plant structures with their functions
- Identify the life cycles of familiar plants and animals and compare the various stages of development
- Describe behaviors of familiar animals
- Describe how living things adapt to and/or change their environment
- Explain how life on earth is dependent on energy from the sun
- Recognize the sun as a source of energy for plants in a food chain
- Describe how plants and animals obtain energy (such as the food chain)
- Describe and measure the properties of matter and understand the states of matter
- Describe physical and chemical changes of matter
- Identify cause and effect relationships
- Explain how forces make an object move
- Understand simple machines and compare them to animal structures in nature
- Understand that energy exists in various forms and list ways that energy changes from one form to another
- Describe sound as a form of energy produced when matter vibrates
- Describe the nature of electricity and how it works
- Describe how people and other organisms produce sound, use sound, and hear sound
- Describe landforms on the earth's surface and describe how volcanoes, earthquakes, water, wind, and living things change these landforms

- Identify natural resources
- Compare the physical properties of the planets in our solar system
- Distinguish earth's unique features when compared with other planets in the solar system
- Explain how life on earth is dependent on energy from the sun
- Understand that night and day are produced by earth's rotation on its axis and that the seasons are caused by the tilt of the earth's axis and the earth's revolution around the sun
- Use the water cycle to explain changes that occur in the atmosphere during different weather conditions
- Describe the structure and function of the main body systems and how bones and muscles work

**Students will understand that science is ongoing and inventive, and that scientific understandings have changed over time as new evidence is found.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Understand that science is a human endeavor
- Understand that men and women from many cultures have contributed to science throughout history
- Understand that science must be communicated to others for verification

**Students will understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design and use them to investigate questions, solve problems, conduct experiments, and communicate their results.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Ask testable questions about the natural world being studied
- State evidence from data collected to justify/explain conclusions from investigations
- Arrange objects or events in a correct sequence
- Recognize the necessity of controlled variables in designing experiments

**Students will understand and demonstrate how science and technology are interconnected and how that relationship influences the decisions they make about themselves and the world in which they live.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Explain how people can change the environment for plants, animals, or themselves
- Examine ways that people can preserve and conserve natural resources
- State the importance of good nutrition and regular exercise
- Differentiate between certain healthy and unhealthy behaviors

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**Students will learn about geography through the study of the relationships among people, places and environments.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use intermediate directions of a compass rose and map scales
- Identify hemispheres, equator, North Pole, South Pole, seven continents, and four oceans
- Define and locate examples of land forms on maps (bay, river, ocean, lake, port, island, peninsula, mountain, hill, plateau, desert, valley, gulf, coast, plains)
- Distinguish between cities, states, and countries on a map
- Develop research skills using atlases, maps, charts and graphs to gather information about the local community

**Students will learn how events of the past have impact on our lives today and the future.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Identify and examine various sources of information that are used for constructing an understanding of Waukesha's past (i.e. artifacts, documents, letters, diaries, maps, books, photos, architecture, oral presentations, architecture, graphs,

- and charts)
- Construct a timeline of significant events in Waukesha's history beginning with the Mound Builders continuing to the present
- Study slavery in relation to the Underground Railroad in Waukesha County
- Expand Lincoln's biography to connect his presidency and the Civil War with Waukesha's history
- Study the past and present significance of the Fox River and Waukesha's springs
- Compare/contrast early jobs in Waukesha with jobs at the present

**Students will understand what it means to be an active citizen in a democracy.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Explain the basic purpose of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
- Discuss the purpose of local government and identify the current mayor
- Identify civic responsibilities as they pertain to our environment (i.e. recycling, pollution control)

**Students will understand how people meet their wants and needs in a society.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Explain the advantages of saving money in a bank
- Explore the role of banks in the Waukesha community
- Give examples to explain how businesses and industries depend upon workers with specialized skills

**Students will develop an understanding of their own identity as well as how people live and work together in groups.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Identify the relationship between Waukesha's growth and the establishment of its institutions
- Describe how cooperation and interdependence played a role

in Waukesha's growth and Waukesha's contribution as a station of the underground railroad

- Recognize the need for racial equality and gender equity
- Identify and describe cultures of the major ethnic groups living in the Waukesha community

## ART

**Students will develop their creative voice through originality, flexibility, fluency, and elaboration in their artwork.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use art as a storytelling device
- Use a variety of subjects
- Use art as a means of expressing themselves
- Explore ways of adding elaboration to artwork
- Explore ways of using the same subject in different ways
- Use the natural and human made environment as a source of inspiration

**Students will apply the elements and principles of design to artwork.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Experiment with and learn about symmetry and radial symmetry
- Explore balanced and unbalanced composition
- Explore how the elements and principles of design apply to drawing
- Explore and create tertiary or intermediate colors
- Apply the elements and principles of design to both 2D and 3D artwork
- Explore different types of lines in both 2D and 3D work
- Develop drawing skills and techniques
- Use a variety of techniques for showing depth
- Use emphasis as a way of showing a center of interest

**Students will use and manipulate art materials appropriately.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Develop brush and painting techniques, such as wet on wet, etc.
- Develop skill with various sculpture techniques
- Use art materials safely
- Use care when creating their artwork

**Students will demonstrate their understanding of working with a variety of art media.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use a variety of tools to form and decorate clay
- Use clay joining techniques with hand building techniques such as pinching, coiling, making sculpture
- Explain the origin of clay and the ceramic process from beginning to end
- Use a variety of techniques, tools, and materials in drawing, painting, and printmaking
- Use a variety of sculpture materials
- Become aware of structural limitations of clay by using appropriate construction techniques

## MUSIC

**Students will perform, create, read and notate, respond, and make connections to other subjects.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Sing individually and in a group, a varied repertoire of songs using appropriate dynamics, tempos and intonation. Song repertoire will include rounds and simple harmony
- Independently play grade-level rhythmic and melodic patterns within an ensemble, demonstrating appropriate techniques and musical expression
- Improvise using movement, instruments and sounds to accompany songs, speech pieces and stories
- Improvise and compose using movement, instruments,

grade-level rhythms and melodies to accompany songs and speech pieces

- Read, notate and perform grade-level rhythmic and melodic notation and other musical symbols
- Use musical terminology, pictures and/or movement to demonstrate an understanding of musical concepts
- Experience and discuss music of various styles, cultures and historical time periods
- Recognize visually and aurally a variety of instrumental timbres
- Evaluate the quality of their own performances

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Students will be able to demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Understand that when equipment is involved more personal space is needed for extra activities
- Demonstrate that sports and activities have movement patterns
- Demonstrate improved skill development
- Understand that skill development comes before game play

**Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Identify elements of correct form (i.e.: fitness tests, observation-throwing)
- Correct errors in movement in response to corrective feedback

**Students will be able achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Participate in sustained activity that causes an increased heart rate, muscular strength and flexibility
- Recognize physiological signs associated with participation in moderate to vigorous exercise
- Complete fitness testing and achieve desired results consistent with health related recommendations

**Students will be able to exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in a physical activity setting.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Identify specific physical education safety practices
- Interact safely and follow established classroom rules and regulations
- Demonstrate and understand socially acceptable interactions with peers
- Understand and accept students of other cultures, abilities, levels and disabilities
- Understand that respect, teamwork and cooperation will help people accomplish goals

**Students will access, evaluate, and apply information efficiently and effectively from a variety of sources in print, non-print, and electronic formats to meet personal and academic needs.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use a research model or other information gathering strategies
- Identify keywords and phrases for each information search
- Use an online catalog to do basic searches
- Use a table of contents and index
- Recognize the necessity for factual content when searching for information

As appropriate to their grade level, students will apply technology and information skills to issues of personal and academic interest by actively seeking information; demonstrate the ability to evaluate what they are reading, listening to, and viewing; and, striving for personal excellence in learning.

As appropriate to their grade level, students will demonstrate the ability to work in groups, use information and technology in a responsible manner, respect intellectual property rights, and recognize the importance of intellectual freedom and access to information.

## **MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Media and technology are 21<sup>st</sup> century tools used for solving problems, constructing new knowledge, and creating products.**

By the end of third grade your child will be able to:

- Use a calculator for grade appropriate problem solving (multiplication)
- Print a document
- Save and retrieve files
- Use word processing to complete a written assignment