

## Third Grade Curriculum

### English-language arts:

**Reading:** Third graders will learn to read and understand a wide variety of material (e.g. fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, legends, myths, instructions, fables). They will learn to apply strategies while reading to learn new vocabulary by, for example, using phonetic cues (syllables, compound words, word families) or using semantic and contextual cues. Students demonstrate comprehension by: identifying the main idea, problem and solution, theme, speaker, character analysis; and identifying structural patterns (e.g. cause and effect, fact and opinion, supporting details in expository text). Third graders will begin to read beyond a literal level (make inferences, show awareness of humor, make a personal connection with a story).

**Writing:** Using an established rubric, third grade students will learn to understand and use the tools of the writing process - developing an idea; pre-writing; drafting; revising; editing; publishing. They will learn to develop a paragraph using a topic sentence, supporting sentences and a conclusion. Writing genres that we will cover are friendly/formal letters, narrative writing, descriptive writing, expository writing and poetry. Finally, students will begin working on cursive in third grade.

**Spelling:** Student will learn both “high frequency words” and common spelling patterns. They will learn about roots and affixes. They will utilize a “Spelling Dictionary” in class and students will be encouraged to use one at home as well.

### Mathematics:

By the end of third grade, students deepen their understanding of and skill with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers. Students estimate, measure and describe objects in space. They use patterns to help solve problems. They represent number relationships and conduct simple probability experiments.

### History-social science:

Third graders will study: Mill Valley in the past and present; the history and culture of the Coast Miwok tribe; Marin County; biographies of American heroes; local government, local and national symbols and landmarks; geography; and citizenship. Much of the instruction will be “hands on” activities.

### Science:

Students will learn about physical properties of matter and light, phases of the moon, position of the sun and its relation to seasons, and other stars and constellations. A study of ecosystems will focus on environmental changes, diverse life forms and animal adaptations. This will include a study of humans’

impact on the environment. We will be observing, classifying, experimenting and investigating in each lesson to gain an understanding of physical, life, and earth sciences.

[Dance](#), [music](#), [theater](#) and [visual](#) arts:

Performance of dance, music, theater and art, and instruction about these art forms.