



## Third Grade Curriculum

**Religion:** The religion program is based on the CPH One in Christ curriculum. Lessons are designed to help the children learn key concepts of faith, such as Law and Gospel, confessions, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. The children are led to see God's love in sending Jesus to redeem them. The lessons are based on selected Bible stories from Creation to Pentecost. Each lesson encourages children to live Christian lives empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**Memory:** The third grade memory program includes learning the names of the books of the Bible, the Ten Commandments with meanings, the Apostles Creed, and selected hymns and Bible passages.

**Language Arts / English:** With the focus on language as a necessary communication tool, third grade students will be focusing on the grammar skills of sentence structure, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, punctuation, and capitalization. Instruction on these basic skills is designed to expand the student's ability to write. Students will learn to write for specific purposes and in specific styles that include narratives, descriptions, informational paragraphs, persuasion, biographies, comparative articles, and book reports.

**Spelling:** The third grade student will study the spelling of words directly and indirectly. There will be a list of words to learn each week which will follow a pattern or rule of spelling. That pattern or rule will then be noted as it appears in other words. Spelling will be guided in all writings of the student.

**Reading:** The children in third grade continue to learn to summarize stories, identify main ideas, give supporting details, analyze stories to determine setting, characters, problem, and steps leading to resolution and conclusion of the story. They learn study skills including using dictionaries, encyclopedias, glossaries, and indexes. Weekly phonics review is connected to the spelling words. The children have many experiences with reading fiction, nonfiction, informative, and biographical articles. They are given opportunities to read for pleasure and information.

**Science:** Third grade students investigate science questions and problems. Teachers facilitate "hands on" activities and encourage children to use critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills as they develop scientific concepts. Students learn to see science as part of technology, society, and personal experiences. The third grade

program may include the following units: Living Things in Our World, Living Things Interact, Earth's Land, Weather and Space, Investigating Matter and Energy, Exploring Forces and Motion.

**Math:** The third grade program uses Saxon Math which uses the spiral method to reinforce the third grade standards. The addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts are continually practiced. The concepts of problem-solving, calendar, time and money are used daily. The skills of addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, geometry, measurement, algebra, decimals and fractions are covered throughout the year preparing the student for fourth grade math.

**Penmanship:** In third grade, students will learn cursive writing. The children learn to identify the basic strokes used most often in cursive writing. Lower and upper case letters are taught and practiced. Shape, size, slant, spacing, and smoothness are emphasized.

**Social Studies:** Students study the history, geography, and government of Michigan to build an appreciation of our state. The students learn how the national government works and makes decisions that affect their lives. Map skills learned in previous years are reviewed and reinforced. Students use these skills throughout the year as they study their world and its communities. The program builds and expands the concept of community. The children learn about different types and sizes of communities in the United States. The eight strands of Social Studies: Economics, Citizenship, Culture, Geography, History, Social Studies Skills, Government, and Science Technology & Society which are all interwoven throughout the study.