

Grade 3

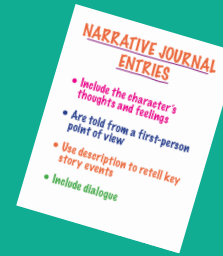
Academic Overview

Introduction

This brochure provides an overview of the academic program, skills, and concepts in Third Grade. It outlines the core subjects, instructional goals, and learning expectations for your child. Newington offers a comprehensive curriculum with sequential instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and wellness at every grade level.

Below is a sample of what your child will be working on in Third Grade:





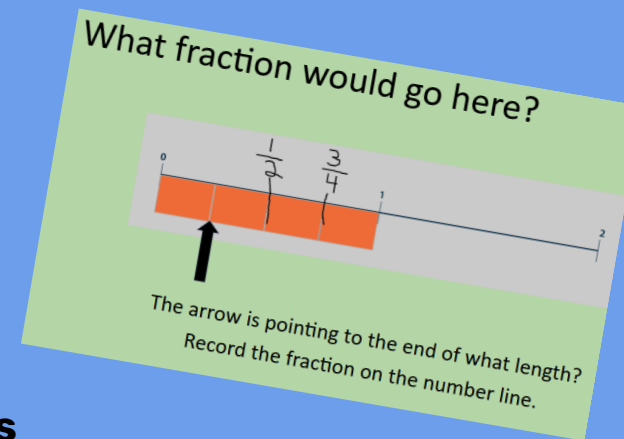
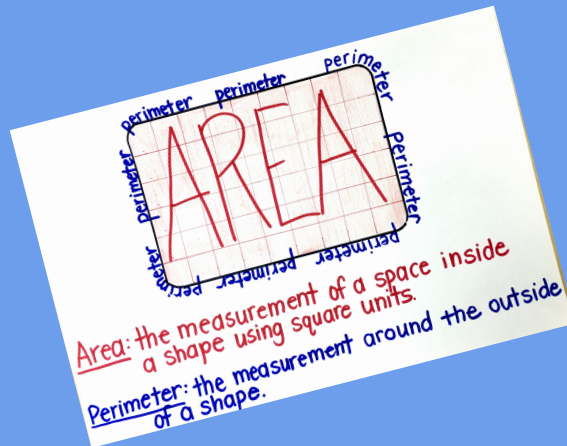
Language Arts

Purpose of the Language Arts Curriculum

The Language Arts Curriculum aims to enhance all facets of language, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. This development ensures that students can communicate effectively in a technological and constantly evolving world.

Students will:

- Read grade-level text fluently.
- Learn and apply new vocabulary using context clues.
- Monitor comprehension and determine central ideas.
- Use text features and graphics to demonstrate understanding.
- Distinguish the author's point of view and compare ideas across texts.
- Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and grammar in writing and speaking.
- Write organized narratives, opinion pieces, and informational texts.
- Proofread, edit, and revise work while applying spelling strategies.
- Write legibly in manuscript and cursive.
- Engage in discussions by asking and answering questions.
- Present information clearly and retell stories, identifying central messages or morals.
- Determine main ideas, supporting details, and connections within texts.
- Compare themes and key details in different texts.
- Write opinions with supporting reasons and compose structured narratives.
- Enhance writing through editing and demonstrate proficiency in spelling and punctuation.
- Engage in meaningful conversations and decode multisyllabic words effectively.
- Read accurately and fluently to support comprehension.
- Create mental images of characters and events to understand character's perspectives



Mathematics

The third-grade math curriculum aims to expand on students' foundational skills and concepts. Through targeted units of study, students engage in meaningful tasks aligned with the Common Core State Standards, which outline essential mathematical knowledge and skills.

The program incorporates various instructional methods, including direct instruction for specific skills, guided math for reinforcement in small groups, independent practice, and collaborative learning to enhance communication and critical thinking.

Students will:

- Identify and solve problems that can be represented with multiplication and division equations.
- Demonstrate proficiency with multiplication facts.
- Show proficiency with division facts, specifically for 1, 2, 5, and 10.
- Add 3-digit numbers both with and without regrouping.
- Subtract 3-digit numbers both with and without regrouping.
- Multiply 1-digit numbers by multiples of 10 effectively.
- Apply the properties of operations as strategies for multiplication and division.
- Compare fractions to determine their equivalence.
- Categorize shapes based on shared attributes.
- Divide shapes into parts with equal areas and label those parts using fractions.
- Tell and write time accurately to the minute.
- Use concepts of elapsed time to solve various problems.
- Determine the area of shapes using various methods.
- Solve problems related to area and perimeter.
- Understand problems clearly and persist in finding solutions.
- Clearly and precisely communicate mathematical thinking both orally and in writing.

This curriculum fosters problem-solving skills and perseverance in students.

Science

In third grade, students embark on an exciting journey of scientific inquiry, allowing them to discover and understand the world around them, building on their experiences from Grade 2 and broadening their understanding beyond their immediate surroundings. They actively make observations and predictions, ask meaningful questions, seek relevant information, and conduct hands-on experiments. Through analyzing data, they draw conclusions and present their findings effectively.

During this year, students delve into the fascinating topic of plant life cycles and explore how animals adapt to thrive in their natural habitats. They investigate weather clues that enable them to predict daily weather patterns, helping them grasp the reasons behind the diverse appearances and sensations of different environments. Additionally, they engage in a study of forces, focusing on the invisible pushes and pulls that influence their surroundings. This comprehensive approach builds a strong foundation for their scientific understanding and encourages a lifelong curiosity about the natural world.

Essential Question

Animal Adaptations

How do living things survive in their environment?

Animals have special characteristics that help them survive in their environment. Baby otters seek huddles for that shorter sunlight, which helps them survive freezing temperatures. ❧



Chimpanzees have many adaptations that help them survive. Their long arms allow them to swing from branch to branch. They sit far below keep their arms when temperatures drop. ❧



Slugs live in the shade of the oak forest. They have long claws that allow them to cling to tree trunks. ❧



Real-World Perspectives

Turn and Talk

What challenges do living things face in an environment? Do you think people should help plants and animals survive? Why or why not? Have a conversation with a partner.

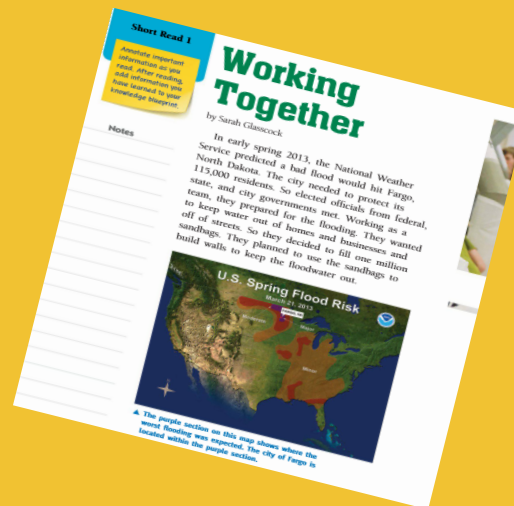
Social Studies

In third grade, students will participate in a comprehensive study focused on Connecticut and its local towns. They will explore how geography, economics, and government structures have shaped the history and current society of the state and communities.

This study will encourage students to formulate and investigate compelling questions across the four core disciplines. Potential questions for exploration include:

- **How are governmental decisions made at the state and local levels?**
- **How has the history and culture of Connecticut influenced our community today?**
- **What factors caused changes in Connecticut, and how did these changes contribute to the broader history of America?**
- **What role does geography play in the economy of our state?**
- **How do individuals and groups contribute to their local community or the state as a whole?**

Through this inquiry-based approach, students will gain a deeper understanding of their state and its significance in American history and society.



Health

The health program aims to empower students to communicate and advocate for their needs while promoting healthy choices. Aligned with the [Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum](#), it covers health promotion and disease prevention in a developmentally suitable way. Key skills developed include analyzing health influences, accessing reliable information, practicing health-enhancing behaviors, and refining communication, decision-making, goal-setting, and advocacy skills.

In third grade, students learn to make balanced meal choices across all food groups, understand nutrients, recognize the importance of physical activity, and identify safe food consumption practices. They also study safety rules for outdoor activities, including bike, water, and railroad safety, along with precautions related to weather and sun exposure.

The curriculum emphasizes social-emotional development, fostering self-awareness, self-management, social skills, and self-care. This helps students cultivate the Habits of Work described in our Portrait of a Graduate, aiming to nurture engaged learners, responsible citizens, and accountable learners.

Focus on Safe and Healthy Boundaries

At the elementary level, the curriculum addresses safe and healthy boundaries by teaching students about appropriate displays of affection, the concept of safe versus unsafe touches, and the importance of setting personal boundaries. Students are empowered to feel safe and encouraged to speak with a trusted adult when necessary, while also learning to respect others' boundaries.

Moreover, the state framework emphasizes age-appropriate education on safe and healthy boundaries. At the elementary level, students learn about appropriate expressions of affection, including what constitutes safe and unsafe touches. They are taught their rights to establish boundaries, feel secure, and communicate with a trusted adult when necessary, as well as to respect the boundaries set by others. Newington Schools recognizes the importance of these topics for student well-being, establishing a foundation for the prevention of sexual abuse and assault. However, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 17a-101q, if you prefer your child not to participate in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention component, please submit a written request to your child's teacher.

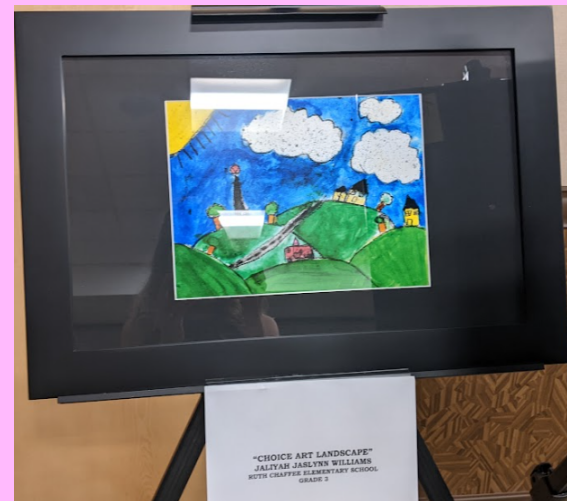


Art

Art education fosters critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, as well as self-awareness and self-expression, which contribute to overall well-being. The elementary art program offers interdisciplinary experiences that help students integrate ideas, concepts, and processes, leading to a more holistic understanding of their world. It also enhances their appreciation of the diverse cultures reflected in the arts. Third graders will have the chance to engage with original art in a museum context and will continue to create art inspired by their imagination, memories, and observations.

Students Will:

- Practice and build upon previously learned skills and techniques.
- Exhibit greater proficiency in the art criticism process.
- Learn about individual artists, styles, and genres.
- Begin to incorporate specific elements in their artwork, such as color, lines, texture, and shapes.
- Understand and apply design principles like balance, contrast, variety, patterning, and rhythm to create visually impactful artwork.
- Identify various careers that utilize visual arts.



A graphic of musical notes and a treble clef on a staff, with notes in various colors (pink, blue, green, yellow) and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Music

Music education significantly improves students' learning, communication, creativity, teamwork, discipline, cultural awareness, respect for others, and self-esteem through personal achievements. The music program is designed to cultivate these essential

Students will:

- Reinforce vocal skills by utilizing a 'singing' voice and singing 'in-tune,' while expanding their repertoire of songs.
- Continue exploring movement through steady beat and body percussion in rhymes, songs, circle games, and folk dances.
- Use recorders to enhance music literacy development.
- Study the four families of instruments to understand symphonic instrumentation.
- Learn a variety of music terms and symbols.



The Wellness program for third graders aims to enhance children's understanding of their movement capabilities, which in turn helps them master various movement skills, both functional and creative. This program provides students with opportunities for individual expression and encourages creative responses, allowing them to progress at their own pace.

In third grade, students are introduced to skills specific to individual and team sports. Through movement exploration, they will engage with various sports skills applicable in game-like scenarios.

Students will learn:

- Appreciation of fitness
- Collaboration with a partner
- Functioning as part of a team