

2025-2026 THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts instruction in Antioch CCSD 34 consists of a comprehensive workshop model that supports reading, writing, speaking, and listening through authentic texts, flexible grouping, and targeted instruction. Using the myView literacy program, students engage in both small group and whole group reading workshops focused on comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, and foundational skills. Word work emphasizes spelling patterns, prefixes, suffixes, and Greek and Latin roots.

Writing Workshop helps students develop as authors by exploring composition, genre, and the writing process, while the Reading-Writing Bridge integrates grammar, academic vocabulary, and language conventions. Students also build oral language and research skills through project-based inquiry, preparing them to think critically, communicate effectively, and grow as lifelong readers and writers.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics instruction is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and delivered through the Eureka Math² curriculum. Instruction in third grade emphasizes conceptual understanding, problem solving, and real-world application across key math domains including Operations & Algebraic Thinking, Measurement & Data, Geometry, and Numbers & Operations. Students explore topics such as multiplication and division, place value, metric measurement, area, fractions, and geometry. Through these units, students develop strong mathematical reasoning skills and a deep understanding of foundational concepts that prepare them for continued success in mathematics.

SCIENCE

Third grade Social Science promotes inquiry-based learning as students explore the theme *Communities Near and Far.* Aligned with the Illinois Social Science Learning Standards, students develop critical thinking and reasoning skills by asking questions, analyzing sources, and drawing informed conclusions. Key units include Native American History, Financial Literacy, and Monuments and Memorials. Through these topics, students engage with core disciplinary concepts in civics, geography, economics, and history while gaining a deeper understanding of the world around them and their role in it.

SCIENCE

Antioch CCSD 34's third grade science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and delivered through the Amplify Science program. Students engage in hands-on, inquiry-based learning that integrates Disciplinary Core Ideas, Crosscutting Concepts, and Science and Engineering Practices. Throughout the year, students investigate key scientific topics in the following units: Balancing Forces, Inheritance and Traits, Environments and Survival, and Weather and Climate. These units encourage students to think like scientists and engineers as they build models, analyze data, and apply their learning to real-world challenges.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education and Health encourages students to build lifelong habits of physical fitness, health, and well-being. Through a variety of physical activities, students strengthen motor skills, teamwork, and cooperation while learning the importance of safety, responsibility, and good sportsmanship. Health instruction in third grade focuses on topics such as body systems, personal hygiene, healthy eating, growth and development, and making safe choices. Students also learn how to respond when their bodies face challenges and how to say no to smoking, drinking, and drugs. The program supports both physical and emotional growth, helping students make informed, healthy decisions.

SPECIALS

ART

Art instruction in Antioch CCSD 34 combines hands-on experimentation and application of various media, tools and processes. Through exposure to the arts, students will learn and utilize the basic elements of art: line, shape, color, space, value and texture. Building upon prior knowledge and skills, students will demonstrate these concepts through a variety of art activities. Additionally, the Elementary Art curriculum introduces and expands upon vocabulary, art history and culture, and careers in art.

MUSIC

General Music instruction in Antioch CCSD 34 includes experiencing music through singing, movement and the playing of instruments. Learning targets revolve around the musical elements of melody, rhythm, harmony, improvisation, form and expressive elements. The K-5 music curriculum is structured around the Illinois Art Learning Standards of creating, performing, responding to musical excerpts, in addition to the connection of personal and real life experiences to music.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY (PLTW)

Third grade students participate in Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to build foundational skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on, collaborative problem-solving. Each unit presents real-world challenges that encourage curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Throughout the year, students explore the following modules: Life Cycle and Survival, Stability and Motion, and Weather: Factors and Hazards. These experiences help students apply scientific concepts, work as a team, and grow as confident problem-solvers ready to tackle future learning.

TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION LITERACY

Antioch CCSD 34 strives to build a strong foundation in technology and information literacy that prepares students for a connected and ever-changing world. Beginning in the early grades, students learn how to use digital tools to explore ideas, solve problems, and express their creativity. As they progress, they develop essential skills for finding, evaluating, and using information responsibly. With a strong emphasis on digital citizenship, students learn how to stay safe online, respect others, and make educated and informed choices in the digital world. Through hands-on experiences and real-world applications, students become confident, capable users of technology who are ready to lead and thrive in the digital age.

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Social-Emotional Learning supports students in developing emotional awareness, self-regulation, positive relationships, and responsible decision-making. Through weekly lessons using the *Second Step Program*, third grade students strengthen their skills in empathy, emotion management, and problem solving. Topics include respecting differences, managing strong emotions, calming anxiety, making responsible choices, and resolving conflicts. These essential life skills help students build a strong foundation for both academic success and positive social interactions.

DIFFERENTIATION & ENRICHMENT

Antioch CCSD 34 is dedicated to meeting the diverse academic, social, and emotional needs of all learners through differentiated instruction and enrichment opportunities. Teachers tailor instruction by adjusting content, process, product, and learning environment to support individual learning styles, readiness levels, and interests. Differentiation ensures that every student is appropriately challenged and supported to achieve growth. Enrichment opportunities are embedded throughout the curriculum to extend learning, foster creativity, and promote critical thinking.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

Antioch CCSD 34's Library Media Centers are dynamic learning hubs that promote a love of reading, spark curiosity, and support academic success. Through access to diverse, high-quality resources, students are empowered to explore ideas, pursue personal interests, and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Library Media Centers foster essential 21st-century skills, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication, by integrating technology, supporting curriculum goals, and providing engaging opportunities for inquiry and discovery in a welcoming and inclusive environment.