



2026-2027

THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Antioch CCSD 34's third grade English Language Arts program supports students as they transition from learning to read toward reading to learn. Instruction is aligned to Science of Reading principles and includes structured, explicit, and research-based practices that strengthen reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language development.

At this stage, students continue building fluency, accuracy, and comprehension while expanding vocabulary, background knowledge, and word analysis skills. Instruction includes systematic practice with phonics, spelling patterns, syllable types, prefixes, suffixes, root words, morphology, grammar, sentence structure, and written expression. Students apply these skills while reading increasingly complex fiction and nonfiction texts, using evidence to answer questions, discuss ideas, and explain their thinking.

Writing instruction supports students in developing organized paragraphs and multi-paragraph pieces across narrative, informational, and opinion writing. Students learn to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish their work while strengthening conventions, word choice, sentence fluency, and clarity. Through whole group and small group instruction, modeling, guided practice, discussion, and independent application, students receive support that is responsive to their needs.

Through rich texts, knowledge-building experiences, vocabulary instruction, collaborative conversations, and research opportunities, third grade students grow as confident readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. This approach supports developmentally appropriate literacy milestones while preparing students for greater independence and success in upper elementary grades.

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.

SOCIAL 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.

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.