

The American School in London

Grade 3: Semester 2 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the second reporting period, these are the ideas, concepts, and skills your child will have learned. We acknowledge that all children learn at different paces, and that it takes the students different lengths of time to master skills and concepts.

Approaches to Learning

Grade 3 students are encouraged to practice kindness, respect, responsibility, integrity and to demonstrate the courage to act. They learn to consider multiple perspectives and solve problems as they arise. Collaborative skills are fostered through partnerships, small groups and whole class activities. Active listeners are expected to embody the core values of kindness and respect as they demonstrate whole-body listening by making eye contact, exhibiting positive body language, taking turns and responding respectfully. Through self-reflection, Grade 3 students continue to develop both a sense of personal identity and a growth mindset.

Reading

The Grade 3 reading program develops independent and engaged readers. Students practice selecting just right books across a variety of genres to read fluently with accuracy and expression. Students learn to apply comprehension strategies to deepen understanding of text and use context clues to connect, question, predict and infer meaning. Reading skills and strategies are explicitly modeled and practiced during genre studies of realistic fiction, biography and informational texts. At the end of the year, the independent reading benchmark for Grade 3 students is Fountas & Pinnell Level P.

Writing

The Grade 3 writing program develops narrative and expository writing skills so students can express their ideas, observations, research findings, opinions and thought processes in each curricular area for a wide range of audiences. Students learn strategies to write for a variety of purposes: to entertain, describe and inform. Grade 3 students examine specific writing structures, such as paragraph formation, nonfiction text features and narrative story elements. Using the Writer's Workshop model, students progress through the writing process, brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising, editing and publishing written work. During Semester 2, Grade 3 writers publish opinion pieces and realistic fiction stories.

Speaking and Listening

Grade 3 students develop listening and speaking skills by engaging in meaningful experiences with a variety of audiences. Students practice listening and speaking across the curriculum to communicate thoughts, build on the ideas of others and deepen understanding. Through class discussions, learning shares, oral presentations and group activities, students work towards developing the confidence to speak in a variety of contexts.

Math

The Grade 3 math curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, with an emphasis on problem solving, using multiple strategies and thinking flexibly. Students develop efficient strategies to tackle problems and work to explain their mathematical thinking clearly. During the second semester, students learn strategies for multiplying and dividing, make further connections between division and fractions, and refine measurement skills. In the study of geometry, students develop their spatial reasoning skills with a focus on quadrilaterals and learn to distinguish between area and perimeter. By the end of Grade 3, students are expected to be fluent with products of two single-digit numbers and apply a variety of skills to solve complex problems.

Social Studies

Grade 3 students build research skills to seek information about the world. Learners will use a critical lens while examining resources about Victorian England and exploring how historians construct stories of the past. Students address the question, "How do we know something is true?" by asking research questions, seeking information from a range of sources, and considering different perspectives. Third graders will then use the lens of truth to examine the world we live in today. What stories are kids being told by today's media, and where can they leverage their powers of persuasion to advocate for change?

Science

Grade 3 students develop their science knowledge and understanding through two units: a study of water and weather and an investigation into the characteristics of gravity and magnetism. During these lessons, students learn that patterns can be observed and are used to make predictions. They also use evidence to support their explanations. Students will ask questions to determine cause and effect relationships to consider why scientists record patterns of weather and the manner in which weather relates to climate. Properties of water are investigated leading to a consideration of the effects of rainfall. In their science and engineering practices, the students ask relevant questions and use models to describe phenomena. They collect, organize and analyze data, and identify the evidence that supports an explanation. Throughout their learning, the students obtain and combine facts from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena and consult with others to communicate scientific information.

Spanish

This semester, Grade 3 students will continue to use their speaking and listening skills in a rehearsed way, working with partners on different language tasks which emphasize the use of the oral language and challenge their presentational speaking skills. Students will record themselves performing these tasks and share them on FreshGrade. We will also engage in a variety of activities covering cultural aspects of the target language, spelling, pronunciation, and reading for beginners.

PE

Grade 3 students continue to work together in cooperative games demonstrating their understanding of the “Big C’s” of sport: cooperation, care, compromise, challenge, celebration and commitment. They learn to transfer this knowledge and develop their manipulative skills to more competitive activities including invasion games, striking and fielding. They learn to use tactics and strategies to improve their team performance. Students continue to acquire greater body control and awareness through dance, hula hooping, and jump roping activities. Students will learn running, jumping and throwing techniques and start to learn the basic principles of getting fit. Each class participates in 10 aquatic lessons to improve stroke technique and to gain more confidence in the water.

Art

This semester, Grade 3 students are working primarily in 3D, exploring new materials such as ‘mod roc’ to design a fantasy creature inspired by ‘alebrijes’. They apply cultural backgrounds and experiences to communicate their ideas inspired by art history. Students also compare and contrast 3D and 2D work and design cartoon characters using lines and shapes. Students look at a variety of art paintings and speculate about the processes artists use to create art.

Music

This semester, Grade 3 students develop their instrumental ensemble skills, learning a number of pieces with three or more parts. They work on their technique and skills on the xylophone while learning to listen carefully to one another to ensure that parts stay balanced and in tempo. After the introduction of hand chimes last term, the students work towards reading from a large score while practicing their ringing technique. They also continue to work on their recorder skills using the notes G, A, B, C and D as well as adding additional lower notes. Students continue to use notation as a strategy to help them learn parts. They are becoming more familiar with how the note names on the treble stave work and how these relate to their playing, although they are not memorizing the names of the lines and spaces at this point.