

The American School in London

Grade 3: Semester 1 Curriculum Guide

By the end of the first 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. Your child's teacher will update you on their initial social, emotional, and academic progress at October conferences and provide a more formal report card in February.

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, whole class activities and grade level gatherings. Through self-reflection, Grade 3 students continue to develop both a sense of personal identity and a growth mindset.

Reading

Students select "just-right" books across a variety of genres to practice reading fluently with accuracy and expression. Students learn to apply comprehension strategies to deepen understanding, using context clues to connect, question, predict and infer. In the middle of Grade 3, the independent reading benchmark for Grade 3 students is Fountas & Pinnell level O. Our reading program aims to develop independent and engaged readers.

Writing

Grade 3 students write within a workshop model to develop the craft and skills of writing. Students write for authentic purposes and in a variety of genres. They learn to revise and edit their writing using rubrics and checklists. Students in Grade 3 work to develop an identity as an author.

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 in order to communicate ideas and deepen understanding. Through class discussions, learning shares, oral presentations and group activities, students work toward developing confidence to speak in a variety of contexts. 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.

Math

In math, Grade 3 students develop efficient strategies to tackle problems and work to explain their mathematical thinking fully and clearly. Based on the Common Core State Standards, and with an emphasis on problem solving, students use multiple approaches and think flexibly. This semester, students deepen their understanding of addition, subtraction, and place value up to 1,000. They are introduced to the concept of rounding and multiplication and division, and will use a strategy-based approach to build math fact fluency. Playing math games and using manipulatives are an integral part of the curriculum, designed to reinforce concepts and skills.

Social Studies

Grade 3 students develop cultural competency while building research skills to seek information about the world. 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.

Science

This semester Grade 3 students will investigate measurement, weather and forces through inquiry, observation and discussion. They will collect data and reflect on the evidence to support their thinking. Students will share their ideas and build on understanding through reading and writing. During the weather and crystallization units, the students will explore the need for accuracy in scientific comparisons. While studying forces, the students will design their own investigations into force characteristics and make their own simple toy. Students will follow engineering practices to design within constraints, consult with others and generate multiple solutions to problems. Throughout students will refine and revise their ideas. Students attend three 60-minute lessons every eight days.

Art

Grade 3 students develop their skills in a variety of art techniques, art mediums and purposes in creating art. They continue to look at and learn through the work and materials of specific artists, presenting a project to the class on an artist of their choice. Students collaborate on group artwork as well as on their own individual work. They reflect on and evaluate their own work and learn to explain the thinking behind the artistic choices they make. Grade 3 students explore the historical context of artworks and learn to combine different techniques and mediums in their own art. Students attend two, 50-minute classes every eight days.

Music

Grade 3 students continue to develop a deeper understanding of both rhythmic and melodic notation by playing a variety of tuned and untuned percussion instruments including the xylophone and recorder. They use a variety of notation forms including conventional notation on a five-line stave. Students also develop an understanding of the musical alphabet. Through movement and listening activities, students learn about form and structure in music. They continue to develop their singing skills through a variety of songs and games in different styles and languages. Students prepare a grade level performance at the end of the semester incorporating singing, movement and some basic drama skills. Students attend three, half hour lessons every eight days.

PE

Grade 3 students 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 own manipulative skills to more competitive activities including net games and invasion games, and learn to use tactics and strategy to improve their team performance. Students continue to acquire greater body control and awareness through gymnastics. Each class attends aquatic lessons for a six-week block as part of their PE classes. Students attend forty-minute classes every other day.

Spanish

Grade 3 students continue to develop their Spanish skills, reviewing fundamentals from previous years while expanding their vocabulary and grammatical knowledge. The students access the language with increasing independence, and use it to string together more complex thoughts and statements. Students have an opportunity to use their knowledge through movement, music, games, and both student and teacher led activities. Active and positive student participation is critical to success in Spanish class. Students attend three, half hour lessons every eight days.