

## **Curriculum Overview – Third Grade**

### **BIBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The aim of Bible class is to present the Bible as God's self revelation, showing His character and His dealings with men on the basis of His covenant promises. The Bible is taught not as a history book, a theological treatise, or a book of rules, but as the divinely inspired and infallible Word of God. In third grade the students study stories and passages from the **Old Testament** – Creation through the Judges. Bible is a graded subject in third grade. The students are graded on the lesson content and related Bible memory work.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**

#### **ENGLISH**

At each grade level the development of oral and written language skills is primary, with the clear understanding that those skills mature as the student grows and matures. In third grade English, the focus continues to be the correct use of English grammar in oral and written communication, thus, the writing process is taught through various unit-writing experiences. The students are assessed through chapter tests and writing samples. Units of study in grammar and writing alternate to provide a strong link between these two areas of language arts.

#### **SPELLING**

Students are introduced to a weekly spelling list that culminates with a spelling test. The students practice with the word list during the week, through oral and written exercises designed for practice and mastery. Additionally, the students are exposed to a wide variety of age-appropriate poetry selections for study and memorization.

#### **PENMANSHIP**

Third grade penmanship continues to practice the correct formation of cursive letters in isolation and moving into specific letters connected to words and words into sentences. The expectation is that students will develop a sense of size and space as well as the correct formation of letters. Mastering the skill of correct letter formation is the goal. Penmanship is taught daily in third grade and is graded. Proper penmanship is emphasized throughout the year in all the students' work.

#### **READING**

In third grade the students continue to develop a love for reading. Improved reading fluency and purposeful attention to reading comprehension are emphasized. The goal is to produce confident, eager readers. The textbook introduces the student to a variety of literature genres and stories. As stories are studied, specific reading skills related to the content are mastered. The students are assessed through questions that build critical thinking and comprehension skills. The class is equally divided between silent reading, written comprehension and skill practice exercises. The introduction of novels as an instructional tool adds another dimension to the content and further development of the student's love for reading. With the collaboration of the librarian, students are provided opportunity to select reading materials and participate in the Book-It and Scholastic Reading Counts reading programs.

### **HISTORY / GEOGRAPHY:**

American History covers our American heritage through the lives of twenty-one great people. It is taught for 30 minutes each day for one semester. Students read the lesson orally in class and then discuss it. The second semester, geography is taught. The students use Nystrom desk

maps and pens to complete hands on activities. Geography is also taught for 30 minutes each day; it lasts approximately twelve weeks. During the last six to seven weeks, the students complete an international project. Each child studies a particular country, completes a report, designs a poster, and participates in an International Festival.

### **SCIENCE / HEALTH:**

The focus of third grade science and health is to stimulate the students' interest in science through the wonders of God's creations. The students enjoy a more hands-on approach to the teaching of science and health where the teacher is emphasizing the use of the scientific method in the study of scientific concepts. Our goal is to reinforce critical thinking skills through science. Third Grade Science is divided into the teaching of life science, physical science, human body, and earth and space science. The scope and sequence incorporates the National Science Education Standards. In particular, "Science as Inquiry" is met through this hands-on, activity-based approach to science. The lessons are founded upon the scientific method.

### **MATH:**

The math curriculum employs a traditional approach to teaching math. Traditional math

- promotes structure and order,
- expects students to learn and remember facts laying the foundations for understanding mathematical concepts,
- strengthens the mind, and
- lays the foundation for higher mathematics and higher level of abstraction.

The study of math in third grade includes a complete induction of the four processes; memorizing fact families for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division for application in daily problem solving activities. Problem solving is carried from number problems to word problems and into solving simple equations, measurement equations, conversions, fractions and decimals. Third graders learn the fundamentals of traditional arithmetic. The greatest emphasis is on multiplication and division.

### **Art, Music and Physical Education**

These are enrichment classes that are part of the elementary curriculum. These classes are graded with a +, S, -. The instructors are specialists in their areas.

The physical education classes lay the foundation for life-long health and recreation. The music classes are designed to foster a love for music and the worship of God. Elementary art exposes students to the basic elements of art and art mediums. The goal is for students to learn to appreciate great art and develop the artistic talents given by their creator.