

Pelham Elementary School Curriculum Description

Grade 3	Math	<p>The grade three curriculum is designed to engage students in making sense of mathematical ideas. The curriculum is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on computational fluency with whole numbers</li> <li>• Emphasize conceptual understanding while building a mastery of basic skills</li> <li>• Explore the full mathematics spectrum, not just basic arithmetic, i.e. rational numbers, geometry, measurement, data and early algebra</li> </ul>
	Science	<p>In third grade the science program works to immerse the students in the scientific method of discovery as well as becoming more confident scientific readers. Third grade focuses on the units of State of Matter; Rocks, Minerals and the Changing Earth; Space, Plants and Relationships among living things; Recycling and Conservation of Energy and Science Careers.</p>
	Reading Language Arts/Writing	<p>In third grade the reading series is the common instructional base for our literacy program. More emphasis is placed on reading comprehension skills, and we transition from learning to read to reading to learn, especially in the content areas. Trade books are incorporated to enrich and individualize students' levels and interests. Our goal is to hook students to be life-long readers.</p> <p>Writing is incorporated throughout the curriculum. Students use both oral expression (speaking) and written expression to reflect and offer their insights to a variety of texts. Students develop the richness of language balanced with correct conventions to produce engaging and effective written communication.</p>
	Social Studies	<p>In grade 3 students experience an extensive unit on Native Americans. Within this unit they acquire map skills and an understanding of how different environments and resources affect the people living in that environment. In addition to learning about the past students are exposed to current events around the world.</p>
	Art	<p>Students will continue to strengthen and expand their knowledge in art. Students will create three dimensional works of art. Students will also use their measuring skills to create art. Students will also be introduced to various artists and will try to create a particular art work based on the artist's style.</p>
	Enrichment	<p>Students practice their logical thinking with "Clip Clue Puzzles". They participate in math games to enhance their math skills, such as "Copy Cat" (reinforcing symmetry and "Up and Back Again" which focuses on basic computation. They work collaboratively on AIMS activities including building the tallest paper tower and constructing the longest paper chain. Students use K'Nex building sets to design and construct various structures</p>
	Physical Education	<p>In third grade new games are introduced to help students continue to develop their coordination levels. The focus of the activities turns to the way the games and movements can help keep our bodies healthy.</p>

		Other areas of a healthy lifestyle are introduced (like nutrition).
	Music	The third grade music program introduces the recorder. Students will learn to read notation as well as their rhythms and demonstrate these skills on the recorder. Other instruments will be introduced as well, including the xylophone, to accompany our recorder pieces
	Technology	Third graders will experience two common technology projects that will be included in their digital portfolio. Students will use MS paint to demonstrate basic geometric concepts. Using a digital camera, students will also document the results of a science experiment such as growing salt crystals and download it accompanied with a statement of their observation.
	Traditions	The third grade experience will include a field trip to a theater either based on literature of a science/social studies connection. Upon return to school the children will respond through a reflective paragraph about their experience.