

## **First Quarter Curriculum Notes for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Our reading program emphasizes strategy-based instruction in reading and integrated language arts, including writing, listening, and speaking. Strategy-based instruction teaches students to use thinking processes; it differs significantly from skill-based instruction, which teaches isolated skills.

#### **Reading**

The following strategies are covered in Unit 1.

- Comprehension strategies will include predictions, story elements (character, plot, setting), problem and solution, and steps in a process (sequence).

Vocabulary Strategies - Compound Words, Prefixes, such as “un” in unhappy

- Study Skills - Parts of a book
- Writing - Personal Narrative

#### **Spelling**

This year we are using a word study book for Spelling. This book reviews basic phonics skills during the first semester and then teaches dictionary, syllables, prefixes, and suffixes the second semester. The vocabulary is more challenging and will take practice to master.

Spelling lists will contain 20 words (unless otherwise designated) for your child. These words are presented to review the skill, enrich vocabulary and reinforce lifetime words. The first 5 weeks we are concentrating on lists of words needed for daily writing. After that the spelling lists will emphasize particular skills and vocabulary words we are learning.

#### **English**

Our English curriculum focuses on interjecting specific grammar skills throughout the following forms of writing: Personal narratives, how-to articles, descriptive paragraphs, and personal letters. We will review the four types of sentences: statements, questions, commands, and exclamations, practice filling out forms, and learn how to use strong verbs and colorful adjectives to make our writing better.

## **MATH**

During the first quarter we will review fact families and inverse operations. We will study place value through 100,000, compare and order numbers, and practice rounding and estimating skills. We will also explore new concepts in time and money such as elapsed time and counting change correctly. After ITBS testing we will begin to introduce multiplication facts.

## **RELIGION**

The lessons in our newly adopted Religion books (Blest Are We) emphasize the four pillars of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. This structure assures that students:

- Learn the content of our Catholic Faith
- Celebrate it in worship
- Connect it to their everyday life
- Learn to pray

We invite you to explore your child's book to further inform yourself of its scope and sequence. Our basic theme throughout the year will be the four marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic) and its mission to the world.

## **HANDWRITING**

During the first quarter, we will introduce the lower case letters of the cursive alphabet. The first set of letters begin with an undercurve stroke and include i, t, u, w, e, i, and b. If the children want to practice their cursive letters, have them only practice the letters we have worked on to ensure learning the correct formation of the letters.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Our first quarter of work will deal with the study of Native Americans from the Northwest Coast and the Plains.

As we get acquainted with our Social Studies books, the children will learn how to make an outline of important ideas, use pictures and graphs to enhance what the book is teaching, and read a text that presents greater amounts of information than in earlier grades. During the first quarter we

will do many assignments together, but gradually the children will become more and more independent. This quarter listening and following directions will be the key skills needed. We will take a field trip to the Durham Western Heritage Museum to learn more about Native Americans.

### **SCIENCE**

Our year begins with Life Science. The chapters covered will focus on plants, animals, and relationships among living things.

### **ART-** Mrs. Morine

The main theme in art for third grade is discovering art in and around the community. They will be furthering their knowledge of the principals of design and elements of art. Third grade students will create a mural for the bulletin board outside the art room and a contour line drawing during the first quarter.

### **MEDIA CENTER** - Mrs. Stratman

Students will review the types of books found in each section of the library. They will begin to use the OPAC (computer catalog) to locate books in the Media Center, receiving instruction in title, author, subject, and keyword searches.

### **SPANISH** - Senora Willmott

Students will review numbers to 100, color words, and family member vocabulary. We will learn the days of the week and the months in Spanish. We will talk about the Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead, and work on a project that coincides with Halloween.

### **MUSIC** - Mrs. Lubbers

Students will:

- Sing alone or with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- Review basic notes and rests (quarter, half, and eighth).
- Distinguish between beats in sets of two and beats in sets of three.
- Explore the 5 lines and 4 spaces of the treble staff
- Sight sing using do, re, mi, sol, and la sol-fege syllables and hand signs.
- Begin playing the recorder and other classroom instruments. All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students need a soprano recorder. This can be purchased at a music store if you do not have one already. Please label the recorder AND the bag with student name.
- Our Christmas pageant is December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

**P.E.**-Mrs. Wooten

Movement exploration

Scooping in preparation for middle school Lacrosse

Football skills - passing, catching, kicking, punting

Relays, Simple and Cooperative Games, Beachball Volleyball

**Computer** - Mrs. Piechoski

Students meet for 30 minutes once a week.

Students will review:

- the names, and functions of the parts of the computer
- technology history
- rules for careful use of the computer
- importance of keeping magnets, food, and drink away from the computer.

Students are practicing the correct posture and finger position on the home keys (a,s,d,f,j,k,l,;). Please encourage your child to always use good keyboarding techniques whenever they work at the computer.