Art

Students in third grade will explore the elements of art and principles of design including line, color, value, space, shape, form, texture, variety and pattern. Their individual creativity will be encouraged as they learn the basics of drawing and painting with a variety of media including crayons, pencils, markers, oil pastels and brushes, as well as create three dimensional art using paper mache. Third graders will be introduced to famous artists and art styles. More advanced concepts of color theory and perspective will be reinforced as well as art processes like collage and printmaking. Safety and proper usage of materials will be taught in a fun environment where all students will feel challenged and supported.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program has been developed following both national and state standards. Motor skills and physical fitness are developed in a sequential manner through a planned series of developmental activities. Students learn the skills and values associated with a healthy lifestyle. Concepts include exploring body and spatial awareness, participating in cooperative adventure and group activities that require teamwork to achieve success, and efficiently performing locomotor and non-loco- motor skills while maintaining good body control. Opportunities are provided for both fine and gross motor development. Students participate in a variety of moderate to vigorous physical activities. The beginning concepts of sports are introduced at this level. Students are provided with experiences in both working independently and working cooperatively with a partner and in a small group. The concepts of fitness and personal and social development are introduced, practiced, and promoted as lifelong activities.

Music

The grade three music program engages students in a variety of musical activities such as playing instruments, singing, critical listening, movement, and dance. Through these activities and performances, students will have opportunities for self-expression, creativity, cross-curricular connections and appreciation for others. Fostering a lifelong enjoyment of music is a common goal throughout the curriculum. Some of the concepts explored are: study of recorder, singing in rounds, echo songs, whole and dotted half notes, treble staff notation, time signature, and repeat signs. Third graders demonstrate their skills singing and playing recorder during an in-school concert in the spring.

2017-2018 Curriculum Snapshots
Third Grade

Elementary Schools
Prospect Elementary School • Laurel Ledge School

It is a pleasure to share our Curriculum Snapshots, a brief overview of all areas of the curriculum for your child’s grade in school. Our curriculum is based on national and state standards as well as the essential skills and understandings necessary for success on the required state assessments. We are teaching to the CT Core Standards in literacy and mathematics. This curriculum comes alive in the hands of our talented teachers who are committed to ensuring that our students reach their highest potential. We are dedicated to accommodating continuous educational growth. If you should have any questions about your child’s curriculum, your classroom teacher is the best source of information.

No single document can fully explain the rich and complex nature of the school curriculum and instructional goals. We know that learning is optimized in a partnership with families, teachers, and schools. Working together, we can use your experiences as a family and our work in the classroom to create a respectful climate of academic success and joy for lifelong learning.

Curriculum Snapshots is made possible through the efforts of the district professional staff, administrators and Board of Education
Michael P. Yamin, Superintendent of Schools

- Board of Education -
Sheryl Feducia Chair • Robert Hiscox Vice Chair
Christine Arnold • Daisy Laone • Nazih Noujaim
David Rybinski • Roxann Vaillancourt
English Language Arts and Literacy

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum includes student learning activities that encourage interactive learning, high-level thinking skills, and maximize student engagement. Geography and map skills are integrated throughout the curriculum at each grade level. Throughout the third grade, students will investigate current events, learn to use symbols and directionality in geography, describe, compare and contrast the culture of Native Americans, complete an international comparison between the United States and another country, and study a variety of religious holidays.

A TYPICAL DAY... A typical third grader's day consists of language arts, math, social studies, science, and computers. Throughout the day, students have special instructional periods including art, music, library, music, and physical education. There is a supervised lunch and recess daily. Please contact your child’s teacher for the specific times and schedules for each week.

Mathematics

In grade three, students will continue to build their concept of numbers, developing an understanding of fractions as numbers. They will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division and apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up through 100 to solve word problems. Students will also make connections between the concept of the area of a rectangle and multiplication and addition of whole numbers. Activities include:

- Understanding and explaining what it means to multiply or divide numbers
- Quickly and accurately multiplying one-digit numbers (multiplication facts)
- Multiplying one-digit numbers by multiples of 10 (such as 20, 30, 40)
- Solving two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understanding the concept of area
- Relating the measurement of area to multiplication and division
- Understanding and identifying a fraction as part of a set and as a number on a number line
- Comparing the size of two fractions
- Expressing whole numbers as fractions and identifying fractions that are equal to whole numbers (for example, recognizing that 3/1 and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring weights and volumes and solving word problems involving these measurements
- Critical thinking, problem solving and perseverance

Science

Our science curriculum emphasizes a "minds-on, hands-on" approach. Students learn through the inquiry/discovery model with an emphasis on problem solving in the real world. A child's natural sense of curiosity is used to explore concepts based on the scientific principle of inquiry. Concepts explored in third grade include: Life Science; Earth Science; Science and Technology in Science, Physical Science; Properties of Matter, Forces, and Motion and Scientific Inquiry.