



Third Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Third Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. A comprehensive Catholic program combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Our Life with Jesus, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To show the third grade students that they belong to God's chosen people and that the child's family is an important part of God's family, the Church. In addition, to encourage prayer and love for God's law, and on the importance of Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic church.

Theme

God's plan of salvation from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion, and the Mass.

Sequence

Ch. 1-7: The Old Testament covenant with God.

Ch. 8-14: Obedience through the love of God and his laws. In Confession, we meet Jesus in His mercy.

Sequence continued...

Ch. 15-25: The life of Jesus and Jesus in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Ch. 26-30: Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing
- † Promoting fluency

HMH's Into Reading transcends traditional reading programs, when it deviates from a controlled limited vocabulary and uses authentic literature.

Features of this series

Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.

- † Science and social studies themes
- † A moral or virtue value in every story
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Riddles

Fiction

Character tales

Folktales

Plays

Nonfiction

Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Supplemental Readers

- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † Lives of the Saints for Children
- † Quick Reads (Fluency Program)
- † Novels
- † National Geographic Publications

Writing

Third graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the use of appropriate grammar and sequence. Students will learn to write:

- † Narrative, expository, and persuasive essays
- † Use vivid language and sensory images
- † Journals
- † News articles
- † Poetry
- † Book reports
- † Friendly letters
- † Daily grammar/language activities

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The exercises in the English workbook provides the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the third grade:

- † Possessive pronouns
- † Types of adverbs
- † Demonstrative pronominal

English continued...

- † Compound subject
- † Compound predicate
- † Combining sentences
- † Classifying simple and complex sentences
- † Abbreviations
- † Direct quotations

Listening/Speaking

The Shurley English series incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Use enriched vocabulary
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions for their own pleasures

Handwriting

Legible cursive handwriting will be developed through daily practice using the Universal Publishing Handwriting Program.

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated with reading and writing. Spelling skills are also taught using a solid phonic and structural analysis approach to encoding using HMH's integrated spelling program.

Vocabulary

Third grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Analogies

Shurley English uses 10 different analogous relationships. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory.

Math

McGraw Hill's My Math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math.

The program is based upon mastery development. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Students will:

- † Compare and order numbers
- † Develop strong number sense
- † Identify and complete patterns
- † Understand place value and our base ten number system
- † Solve problems-real world situations
- † Master all basic addition and subtraction; multiplication, and division facts
- † Master addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division algorithms
- † Add and subtract fractions with same denominators
- † Measure, capacity, mass, and length

Math *continued...*

- † Tell time to the minute
- † Make change for a dollar
- † Graph ordered pairs on a coordinate graph
- † Create, read, and write observations from graphs
- † Interpret Venn diagrams and line graphs

Science

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Series, *A Closer Look*, provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Children are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis:

The units taught are:

Life Science

- † Plant structure and function
- † Animal structure and functions
- † Energy and ecosystems
- † Surviving in an environment

Physical Science

- † Measuring matter
- † Force and motion
- † Electricity and magnetism
- † Light and sound

Earth Science

- † Earth changes
- † Using Earth's Resources
- † Changes in weather
- † Planets, moons, and stars

Supplemental Readers

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
 - ⇒ *Shaping Earth's Surface*
 - ⇒ *Animals and Their Habitats*
 - ⇒ *Energy*

Social Studies

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill series prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The third grade text, Communities, covers themes that focus on:

- † Where you live effects how you live (geography)
- † Changes over time
- † How people change communities (culture)
- † Communities at work
- † Communities and government
- † Illinois our state

A comprehensive map skills program from Scholastic called Map Skills For Today covers map skills. Units covered in third grade

- † Aerial maps
- † Globes and maps
- † Compass
- † Hemisphere
- † Mapping landforms
- † Community maps
- † Inset maps
- † Agricultural product maps
- † Mapping a story

Supplemental Readers

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
 - ⇒ *Communities and Their Locations*
 - ⇒ *Providing Goods*

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Disease and injury prevention

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Computer Science

Each student has an Imagine Math and Imagine Literacy and Language account to work at his/her own pace and level in the computer lab.

Library

Students come to the library weekly to check out books at their reading level. When research projects are assigned, students are directed to the appropriate subject matter.

Physical Education

Third grade students learn to move their body through space with greater speed, agility, and accuracy. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in activities such as:

Physical Education continued...

- † Locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, jumping, throwing, and catching
- † Maintain personal fitness
- † Balancing, tumbling, and climbing
- † Following more complex patterns of movement in games

Volleyball and basketball intramural sports are offered in the fall and spring respectively. Students practice after school and end the weekly session with a game.

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Learn about the artists and their styles
- † Express their individually through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works
- † Use a variety of media and tools
- † Show an awareness of size, color, and texture within a composition

Music

Third graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Read musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguish elements of music
- † Interpret musical compositions
- † Perform in a musical program twice a year

Band is offered on an extra-curricular basis.

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Reports Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. All students will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance to second graders. Use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for 3rd graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

