

Parent Guide to Third Grade

Randolph County School System



English Language Arts

In third grade, your child will use critical thinking skills and strategies to comprehend and clarify information and ideas when reading. Important goals for the year include:

Reading:

- Use grade level phonics and word analysis skills to decode multi-syllable words.
- Recount fables, folktales, and myths and determine the central message, lesson or moral using details.
- Find the main idea of a text and identify the supporting details.
- Describe characters from a story (traits, motivations and feelings).
- Explain how illustrations can contribute to the mood or provide additional information about a topic.
- Compare and contrast the themes, settings and plots of stories.
- Distinguish the meaning of literal and nonliteral words and phrases in a text.
- Make connections between sentences and paragraphs.
- Compare details about the same topic in two different texts.

Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces for different purposes and audiences.
- Use technology to produce and publish writing.
- Conduct short research projects independently.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling, including capitals, commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks.
- Create readable documents with legible handwriting (manuscript and cursive).

Speaking/Listening:

- Take part in discussions about topics and texts by preparing ahead of time, building on others' ideas, asking questions, and expressing their own ideas.
- Report orally on a topic or text by using facts and details and speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Read more about what your child will learn this year in the parent guides from the NC Department of Public Instruction! bit.ly/ELA_parent_guide

Mathematics

In third grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense.

Important goals for the year include:

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
- Multiply and divide within 100. Know multiplication and division facts up to 10×10 from memory.
- Multiply one-digit numbers by multiples of ten (ex. 9×80).
- Solve word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Add and subtract within 1000 using a variety of strategies.
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers (represent, compare, and find equivalent fractions).
- Represent fractions on a number line.
- Estimate and measure length, weight, and capacity using customary measurement (inches, feet, yards, ounces, pounds, cups, pints, quarts, gallons). Solve problems involving measurements.
- Tell time to the nearest minute and solve problems with intervals of time.
- Represent and interpret data on tables, picture graphs, and bar graphs.
- Find the area and perimeter of shapes.
- Classify two-dimensional shapes, including quadrilaterals, based on shared characteristics.

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Science

As third grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively conduct investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers.

Important goals for the year include:

- Understand motion and factors that affect motion. Compare changes in speed and explain the effects of gravity.
- Compare the properties of solids, liquids, and gases. Summarize the properties of matter before and after they undergo a change.
- Recognize how energy can be transferred from one object to another.
- Compare the land and water features of Earth.
- Recognize the major components of the solar system and observe patterns of the sun and stars.
- Explain and compare the different functions of the skeletal and muscle systems of the human body.
- Summarize how plants survive in their environments (function of plant structures, environmental conditions, and life cycle of seed plants). Explain the properties of soil and how it supports the growth and survival of many plants.

Social Studies

Third grade students focus on community development and connections within a community when learning about different social studies concepts.

Important goals for the year include:

- Understand the important role of people in shaping history and explore changes in communities and regions over time.
- Study different historical narratives in order to understand why people can describe the same event differently.
- Study various patterns of community living in order to understand that people are influenced by their geographic location, their use of earth's materials, and the physical environment.
- Explain how the location of a region impacts supply and demand.
- Explain why people become entrepreneurs.
- Explain the structure and development of local government.
- Understand the importance of being a citizen and explain how citizens contribute to their community.
- Compare languages, foods, art, and traditions of groups living in local and regional communities.

Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

www.randolph.k12.nc.us

Parent Resources

www.ed.gov

NBC Education Nation Parent Toolkit

www.parenttoolkit.com/

K-12 Standards for each subject

www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/

National PTA Parent Guides

www.pta.org