



# Middle Country Central School District

## Parents Guide to Elementary Curriculum

### Grade 3

By the end of their third grade year, students should acquire the following knowledge and skills. Expectations here reflect current New York State standards in each subject area:

#### **Language Arts:**

The third grade language arts program is fully aligned with the NYS Next Generation ELA Standards and the HMH Into Reading Program.

Third grade teachers provide ELA instruction through integrated modules, collaborative and individual work, and student-centered learning in order to make children active, independent learners and highly literate members of society. Professional development and literacy blocks support teachers and students.

Third grade reading instruction focuses on building fluency and enhancing the students' ability to accurately comprehend and evaluate more complex texts. Students learn to describe characters in a story, identify parts of a text, and distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator. Students also learn and utilize various reading strategies as they engage in independent reading, reading partnerships, and book clubs. The third grade writing instruction enables students to write opinion, informative, and narrative pieces effectively by cycling through the writing process. Students learn to effectively focus, structure, and develop their ideas, while maintaining control of conventions, spelling, and grammar.

The following are some of this year's third grade HMH modules:

#### Reading Modules

What a Character  
Use Your Words  
Let Freedom Ring  
Stories on Stage  
Teamwork  
Animal Behaviors

#### Writing Modules

Personal Narrative  
Letter  
Descriptive Essay  
Story  
Persuasive Letter  
Expository Essay

Make a Difference  
Imagine! Invent!  
Reading Modules (cont.)  
From Farm to Table  
Tell a Tale

Opinion Essay  
Research Report  
Writing Modules (cont.)  
Poem  
Imaginative Story  
Persuasive Essay  
Biographical Essay

### **Mathematics:**

The goal of the mathematics curriculum is for students to understand the concepts of and to become proficient with the skills of mathematics. Students will communicate and reason mathematically. They will become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies through the integrated study of number sense and operations, algebra, fractions, geometry, and measurement and data. This will be accomplished through the implementation of the Middle Country Central School District Content and Process Strands, which are aligned with the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards for math.

#### Students will:

##### Number Sense, Operations, and Algebra

- Use place value to round whole numbers to nearest 10 or 100
- Understand and apply addition and multiplication properties
- Compare and order numbers to 1,000
- Identify and explain patterns in arithmetic
- Develop fluency with the multiplication tables
- Divide a two digit dividend by a one digit divisor
- Develop strategies for selecting the appropriate operation in problem solving
- Solve problems involving multiplication and division within 100

##### Fractions

- Understand the meaning of a fraction
- Represent fractions on a number line
- Compare fractions using reasoning and symbols (<, =, >)
- Recognize, generate, and explain equivalent fractions

##### Geometry

- Use visualization and spatial reasoning to analyze characteristics and properties of geometric shapes
- Identify congruent and similar shapes
- Partition shapes into equal parts
- Express area of each part as a unit fraction of the whole

##### Measurement and Data

- Select and use tools and units (customary) appropriate for the length, capacity, and weight measured

- Count and represent combined coins and dollars, using currency symbols (\$0.00)
- Tell time to the minute using digital and analog clocks
- Relate unit fractions to a clock face; whole = 60 minutes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  = 30 minutes,  $\frac{1}{4}$  = 15 minutes
- Collect data using observations and surveys and record appropriately
- Identify the parts and display data of pictographs and bar graphs
- Recognize, understand, and measure area
- Relate area to multiplication and addition
- Solve real-world problems using perimeter

### **Social Studies:**

The ultimate goal of the social studies curriculum is for students to assume their role as responsible citizens and as active contributors to a society that is increasingly diverse, and interdependent with other nations of the world. The Middle Country social studies program is fully aligned with the standards and practices in the NYS K-12 Social Studies Framework.

In third grade, students study “Communities around the World.” They learn about communities around the globe and global citizenship, making comparisons across time and space, while examining diverse cultures. Culture includes social organization, customs and traditions, language, arts and literature, religion, forms of government, and economic systems. Students are introduced to the concepts of prejudice, discrimination and human rights, as well as to social action. They will examine at least three communities that represent different regions of the world, types of communities (urban, suburban, and rural), and governmental structures.

### Topics to be explored include:

- Geographic tools and skills
- Location and geographic characteristics of world communities
- Impacts of human-environment interactions
- Economic decision-making of world communities
- Challenge of and interdependence in meeting needs and wants
- Types and roles of governments around the world
- Roles and responsibilities of citizens
- Human rights, prejudice, and discrimination
- Diverse cultures and histories

### **Science:**

In accordance with New York State Science Standards, the Middle Country Central School District emphasizes a hands-on and minds-on approach to learning. Students actively engage in the discovery process, utilizing science and engineering practices to explore scientific concepts. Experiences provide students with opportunities to interact with the natural environment in order to construct explanations about their world. This approach allows students to practice problem-solving skills, develop positive science attitudes, learn new science content, and explore how to think like scientists and engineers.

Third grade units include the following:

- Scientific Inquiry: The Nature of Science
- Electricity/Magnetism
- Weather & Climate
- Life Cycles & Traits: Insects/Birds

**Special Areas:**

Music, Art, Health, Physical Education, SEL and Technology are an important part of your child's educational experience. By participating in special area programs, children are introduced to the fundamentals of each specific discipline, then involved in learning situations which are applications of basic concepts. In all of them, active experiences are provided and children are encouraged to express themselves and to communicate through various subject area media.

**MUSIC:**

Through singing, listening and movement activities, children learn to differentiate between high and low pitches, recognize groups of metric units, respond orally to the rhythmic flow of music, determine melodic direction (up and down), express personal reaction to consonance and dissonance, begin to recognize that music consists of organized sounds and silences, and learn to distinguish between "soft" and "loud".

**ART:**

Emphasis is placed on eye-hand coordination and manipulation tasks. Children are asked to cut, fold, tear, paste, paint, draw, sculpt, and make crafts. Through these activities, students can communicate their concepts vis-à-vis their completed art projects.

**HEALTH:**

The health curriculum focuses on the whole child by analyzing physical, social and emotional well-being. Children learn to make responsible health related decisions.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:**

The curriculum stresses personal living skills in all grades. They begin to develop a sense of the importance of cardiovascular wellness and music fitness. Movement skills are taught which deal with safety and creativity. The entire area of positive self-esteem is developed through various activities. Social emotional learning is also addressed as part of the curriculum.

**SEL:**

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) - Through literature, students will delve into the areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making, and relationship skills. Students will learn how to manage emotions and behaviors, discern how to make

responsible and caring decisions, and set personal goals. Research shows SEL improves academic performance, curtails bullying, and builds character.

**TECHNOLOGY:**

Our technology program is designed to support classroom academic instruction with 1:1 devices. All students are issued their own ChromeBook allowing students access anywhere they have internet access. District subscribed, web-based supplemental products support instruction across all subject areas.

**MISSION:**

The mission of the Middle Country Central School District is to empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to be creative problem-solvers, to achieve personal success, and to contribute responsibly in a diverse and dynamic world.