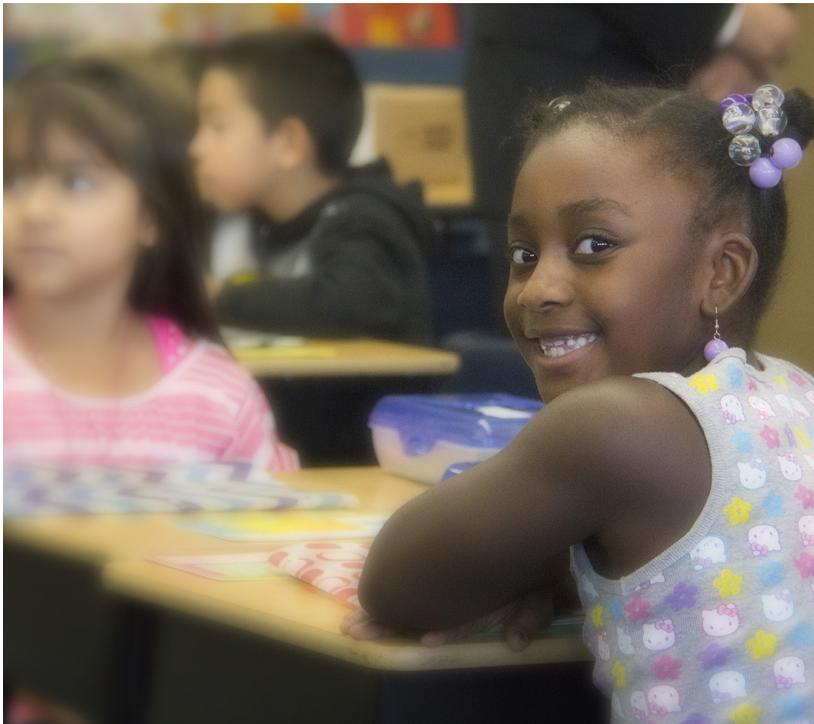


Washoe County School District Family Guide to Learning

*How you can help your child succeed
in elementary school*



**Washoe County
School District**



3rd Grade Curriculum Guide

Washoe County School District **3rd Grade Family Guide to Learning**

How you can help your child succeed in elementary school

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of third grade as determined by the Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS), our statewide academic standards. The NVACS describe what all students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through the 12th grade. The NVACS is a set of minimum expectations, not a curriculum, so decisions about how to help students meet learning goals remains in the hands of the District, schools, and teachers.

The guide focuses on the key concepts in literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies as well as library, music, computers, 21st Century Skills, and Social & Emotional Learning. If your child meets the expectations outlined in the NVACS, he or she will be well prepared for 4th grade.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

For additional ideas for learning at home, or to learn more about the Nevada Academic Content Standards please visit us online at <http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/1002>.



Washoe County School District

Every Child, By Name And Face, To GraduationSM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

As part of helping your elementary student become College and Career Ready, your child's teacher will be

1. Helping your student get into the habit of using evidence in speaking, reading and writing.
2. Building knowledge using non-fiction text.
3. Developing skills necessary for your student to work with challenging texts and its academic vocabulary.

Reading– Foundations, Literature, and Informational Text

- Describe the traits, motivations, or feelings of characters in a story.
- Use text features and information learned from illustrations (e.g., key words, maps, and photographs) to understand and locate information relevant to a given topic.
- Use prefixes and suffixes (including the Latin suffixes -able, -ment, and -tion).
- Recognize and use features of digital text (e.g. hyperlinks, annotation tools).

Writing

- Write informative texts to examine a topic and present ideas and information clearly with supporting evidence.
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts. Support a point of view and include reasons or information for that point of view.
- Write pieces that include an introduction, reasons for his/her opinion, and a closing statement or section.

Language

- Use nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs correctly when writing and speaking.
- Spell words correctly (e.g., sitting, smiled, happiness).
- Use a root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., company, companion).

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Read news or magazine articles in print and digital formats. Point out the maps and graphs.*
- *Discuss the central message, lesson, or moral of the story.*
- *Use informational books and the Internet to locate information; use the information to write informative text.*
- *Write everyday by keeping a journal or diary with your child's own stories or concepts he/she knows or learns.*
- *Add details and reasons to support your child's opinions when writing.*
- *Encourage your child find and use online information when researching topics for school or personal interest.*
- *Encourage your child to create digital content, and share it with friends and family through tools like a family blog. Ask relatives to post comments.*
- *If you use social networking sites, consider creating collaborative posts with your child to help them understand appropriate online language and behaviors.*

MATHEMATICS

Operations and Algebraic thinking

- Understand and use multiplication and division up to 100.
 - Understand the relationship between multiplication and division, and draw a model or picture to represent a multiplication or division problem. Know and use multiplication facts to solve problems.
- Solve real-life word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Number Base 10

- Add and subtract within 1,000 using strategies based on place value and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction. For example, another way to find $480 - 195$ is by thinking what number can I add to 195 to make 480?
- Multiply one-digit numbers by multiples of 10 using place value. For example, $8 \times 90 = 8 \times 9 \times 10$ this is also 72×10 or 720.

Number and operations - *Fractions*

- Draw fractions on number lines with zero to one as the whole. Represent halves, thirds, fourths, sixths, eighths, and twelfths.
- Explain equivalent fractions as fractions of the same size. For example: $1/2 = 2/4$ and $4/6 = 2/3$. Children may use visual such as a rectangle divided into two equal shares that shows two halves.
- Represent fractions, such as $1/4$ or $1/3$, as parts of a whole. Fold a rectangular piece of paper in half and then half again to make four equal sized parts. Each part is $1/4$ of the whole sheet of paper. Explore parts of a group, for example, $1/3$ of 12 marbles.
- Compare fractions. For example, which is bigger: $1/4$ or $1/3$? How do you know?

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of time in minutes, liquid volumes, and masses of objects using grams (g), kilograms (kg), and liters (l).
- Count squares to determine the area of rectangles. Understand that when looking at area the squares can't have gaps or overlaps. Explain how area and multiplication and/or addition are similar.

Geometry

- Understand that some shapes share attributes (like having four sides). For example, a square and a rectangle are polygons that have four sides and four angles.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Encourage your child to think about situations that involve equal groups such as dividing a snack or cookies among a group of friends.*
- *Look for large numbers on packages, on signs, and in your home. Talk about the numbers. For example: how much is 200 more? Would we have enough juice for 50 students if we buy 10 of those 6-packs? Can we buy less? What if we have 70 students? What will we need to buy then?*
- *Ask how many you had if you purchased ten of certain items that are grouped. For example: How many socks would you have if you bought 10 pairs? How many sodas would you have if you bought ten 6-packs? How many fruit snacks would you have if you bought 10 boxes and each box had 8 packs?*
- *Encourage your child to use digital tools and apps that support development of mathematical concepts and skills.*

SOCIAL STUDIES

History

- Examine primary (historical) sources, such as speeches, diaries, letters, etc.
- Investigate how individuals and families contributed to the development of the local community.
- Understand how conflicts can be resolved through compromise.
- Define the concept of heroism and describe local and national heroes of today and in history.
- Use the Internet to find information and create digital products.

Geography

- Use directions on a compass rose to locate places on a map.
- Understand how to use various types of maps and globes, including online maps.
- Identify ways people express culture in different parts of the world.

Economics

- Identify needs as high priorities and wants as goods, services, or leisure activities.
- Demonstrate an understanding of making money as income and give examples.
- Explain what business owners do.

Civics

- Discuss examples of rules, laws, and authorities that keep people safe and property secure, in both physical and online spaces.
- Recognize individual responsibilities in the classroom and the school, and online.
- Name current elected officials in the country and state, and find information about them on the Internet.

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

- *Discuss rights and responsibilities of American citizens.*
- *Explain how memorials help us to honor and remember people.*
- *Practice using latitude (north and south) and longitude (east and west) when reading maps, including online maps.*
- *Study ways people modify the physical environment such as building roads, dams, and tunnels.*
- *Look at prices of goods while shopping and use applicable mobile shopping apps.*
- *Discuss what it means to use a bank account and to save money or resources.*
- *Practice the Pledge of Allegiance and discuss its purpose.*
- *Describe what it means to be a good leader.*

SCIENCE

Forces and Interactions

How do equal & unequal forces on an object affect the object? How can magnets be used?

- Objects have multiple forces acting on them (including gravity).
- Objects in contact exert forces on each other.
- Balanced (no change) and unbalanced (change).
- Forces have strength and direction.
- Patterns of objects in motion can be observed, measured and, if regular, used to predict.
- Electric and magnetic forces between a pair of objects that do not touch.*

Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

How are plants, animals, & environments of the past similar or different from current plants, animals, and environments? What happens to organisms when their environment changes?

- Habitat change have effects on plants and animals including adaptations, migration, and death.*
- Fossils: timeline of plants, animals, and habitats.

Inheritance and Variation of Traits

How do organisms vary in their traits?

- Life cycles: plant and animal including reproduction.
- Inheritance and environment impacts: What causes the characteristics/traits and functions of each new generation including natural selection in species?

Weather and Climate

What is typical weather in different parts of the world and during different times of the year? How can the impact of weather-related hazards be reduced?

- Weather patterns across time and regions (patterns of change can be used to make predictions).
- Determine the difference between weather and climate. Weather is the current conditions over a short period of time and climate is weather over relatively long periods of time.
- Severe weather and how humans can prepare for it. Examples of severe weather are hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, or excessive snow. *

*Engineering opportunities that allow children to apply what they have learned in science and mathematics. These activities are based on real-world problems to see how science and mathematics are relevant to children's lives.

Supporting your child's learning at home

- Encourage your child to observe, ask questions, experiment, search for information online, and seek their own understandings of natural and human-made phenomena around them.
- Have "tug of war" with balanced (equal people and weight on both sides) and unbalanced (unequal people and weight) forces
- Discuss why some animals do not live in all parts of the earth and why. Polar bears live where it is cold, fish and other types of amphibians live in and near water.
- Discuss traits that animals or plants get from their parents and traits that are common in your family.
- Discuss different types of regions in northern Nevada and what type of climates they have.
- Use online tools and mobile apps to check the weather in various parts of the world in real-time.

Other areas of learning beyond the areas of reading and writing, mathematics, science, and social studies include:

Music

- Perform patriotic songs, folk songs, and multicultural songs with proper posture and accurate head voice.
- Perform, identify, read, and write quarter notes, eighth notes, tied quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, sixteenth notes, quarter rest, half rest, and whole rest.
- Perform the beat and repeated rhythm patterns (ostinato) on classroom instruments in an ensemble using proper technique.
- Perform and identify chord changes by playing a solid and broken bordun (a repeated pattern using the 1st and 5th notes of the scale), bassline, or I and V chords.
- Perform and identify 2 meter, 3 meter, and 4 meter by distinguishing between strong and weak beats.
- Improvise short rhythmic or melodic patterns within a song.
- Match pitch on extended pentatonic melodies containing high do, la, so, mi, re, do, low la, and low so.
- Read and perform known songs from the music staff using high do, la, so, mi, re, do, low la, and low so.
- Sing in two-parts by performing the melody with a repeated melodic pattern (ostinato).
- Sing in two-parts by performing a round or canon.
- Identify the musical form of a piece by performing and creating introductions, codas, and interludes in known songs.
- Use music vocabulary to describe tempo, dynamics, and style.
- Explain personal preferences for specific musical works and styles by using music vocabulary.
- Categorize classroom instruments into instrument families: non-pitched percussion versus barred/mallet instruments.
- “Tinker” with digital apps and tools for creating music and understanding music theory.

Library

- Information literacy by asking both broad and specific questions that will help in locating needed information; identifying and locating library materials; using the library catalog and the library classification system; and identifying, interpreting, and analyzing the qualities of well-written fiction and non-fiction.
- Independent learning by going beyond their own knowledge to find information on aspects of personal interest or well-being and comparing and contrasting different genres of literature including folktales, poetry, fiction and non-fiction.
- Social responsibility by explaining the importance of information found from diverse sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures; using information, information sources, and information technology efficiently so that they are available for others to use; and using information sources to select information and ideas that will contribute directly to the success of group projects.
- Digital citizenship, copyright and fair use, and digital footprints.

Computers

Third graders will expand their skills in using word processing tools to type reports and to create flyers and other publications. With assistance, they will collaborate with other students on classroom projects. Third graders will continue to learn about developing a positive on-line identity. They will practice using proper communication skills as they communicate with others on the Internet. They will also begin to develop resources to cope with on-line bullying. Third graders will begin to identify credible sources on the Internet and start to develop a greater understanding of academic content. They will practice mathematics, writing, reading, and keyboarding skills through various interactive software products.

Social and Emotional Competencies

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process for helping children and adults develop the fundamental skills for life effectiveness. SEL teaches the skills we all need to handle ourselves, our relationships, and our work, effectively and ethically.

- Self-Awareness: Uses different words to describe emotions – For example, along with “happy,” uses “grateful”, “thankful”, or “glad”.
- Self-Management: Has strategies to manage upsetting emotions, including ways to calm herself/himself.
- Social Awareness: Begins to identify and respect other’s perspectives and feelings as part of making friends.
- Relationship Skills: Begins to identify problems that occur in a relationship and can discuss ways to go about resolving them.
- Responsible Decision-Making: Understands and explains why it is important to obey rules and laws, whether it be traffic laws, rules at home, or in the classroom.

21st Century Learning

Students need to be prepared for this rapidly changing world and it is critical that we give them a well-rounded experience that includes not only strong academic content, but essential skills that prepare them for careers and college and help them to think critically, solve real-world problems, speak and write clearly, and work productively with others. These competencies, known as 21st century competencies, include:

- Collaboration: working effectively in pairs or groups
- Knowledge Construction: generating ideas and understandings about the world
- Real-World Problem Solving and Innovation: defining and developing solutions to problems
- Use of Technology for Learning: using technology creatively to construct knowledge
- Self-Regulation: planning and improving work over time
- Skilled Communication: connecting and expressing ideas to an audience

Students in third grade will also be exposed to visual arts, physical education, and health concepts as applicable.

MATHEMATICS LITERACY SCIENCE
SOCIAL STUDIES
Social and Emotional Learning
library music computers
21st Century Skills



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