

Social Studies

Students in third grade gain an appreciation of their place as a citizen of a local community and their role as member of a more global community. The values of civic responsibility, democracy, and mutual dependency are explicitly taught with exemplars from current events, noteworthy days on the calendar (Election Day, Veteran's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, etc.) and landmark events in American history. Students also gain a greater appreciation of themselves as members of the Jewish community and its role in the community at large. Third graders use a variety of print and digital resources including USA Studies Weekly.

Science

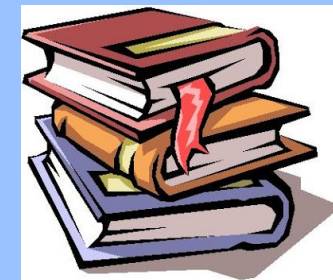
In keeping with the Next Generation Standards in Science guidelines, students in third grade investigate two topics in depth. The students investigate the structures of life by studying the overarching concepts in life sciences. They study how the dispersal of seeds begins new life, how the environment affects plants and animals and novel ways at looking at development, such as in hydroponics. Third graders also study the basic principles of geology (rocks, minerals, weathering and landforms). Third graders have opportunities for hands on science experiences in our Science lab, and enjoy a meaningful and relevant trip to the Sterling Hill Mine.

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ישיבת בית הלל

YBH
OF PASSAIC

Third Grade
General Studies
Curriculum





Literacy

Students in third grade have acquired the basic foundational skills in literacy and now have access to a wider variety of texts of multiple genres and higher levels of complexity. Using both shared texts from their anthology in our anchor program, **Reading Street**, as well as leveled readers that are matched to their reading needs, students focus on expanding and deepening their understanding of text. They practice "close reading" of text in order to locate and cite evidence for central ideas, supporting details and drawing inferences or conclusions. Students are asked to describe characters and explain how their actions influence the sequence of events in stories. Vocabulary development is an integral part of every lesson, as students learn content specific words, high utility words and words with multiple meanings are presented. In writing, students master the basic structure of a paragraph and write for multiple purposes including: a personal narrative, a "how-to" set of directions; a persuasive essay, a descriptive paragraph and dialogue. Students also write in response to literature that is read independently or in school.

Each step of the writing process, from brainstorming to "publishing" is explicitly modeled and practiced in class, as students learn to self and peer edit written work. They learn and apply the conventions of language, including sentence structure, basic grammar rules and begin to use various literary techniques such as idioms, similes, metaphors, personification and onomatopoeia in their written work. Students listen to a variety of "read alouds" that inspire, model target linguistic patterns or are exemplars of various literary techniques or genres. These include:

Molly's Pilgrim, The Year of the Panda, Stone Fox, Day of the Blizzard, Shoeshine Girl, Sarah Plain and Tall, Amink and Fink a Skating Rink, A Lime a Mime a Pool of Slime, Hairy Scary Ordinary and Amelia Bedilia.

Overview

As students transition to third grade, they enter the middle elementary school years. Having acquired the basic rudiments of reading and math, students possess the necessary tools for more complex learning and for pursuing their interests and affinities. With continued support and guidance from their teachers, third graders' inherent inquisitive nature is nurtured. Classroom instruction is implemented using a variety of instructional approaches, including cooperative learning groups, self paced learning and the integration of technology into instruction. They learn to take more responsibility for their personal belongings and more consistently use the organizational skills practiced in the early elementary years to help them manage their materials. The third grade year at YBH is an exciting and engaging experience as students continue to grow as unique learners and individuals.

Mathematics

The third grade math curriculum focuses on the development of a strong understanding of the operations of multiplication and division and the acquisition of strategies for dividing and multiplying within 100. Students learn the relationship between these two operations and use their knowledge and understanding of place value to efficiently compute. Students in third grade also develop an understanding of fractions and two dimensional shapes. The math program at YBH, while recognizing the importance of procedural knowledge and fluency, especially automatic recall of basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts, emphasizes conceptual understanding. Students begin formal investigation into the concept of fractions using fraction manipulatives such as fraction tiles and strips. Finally, they learn and apply basic principles of linear and liquid measurement in which they also apply learned skills related to division and fractions.