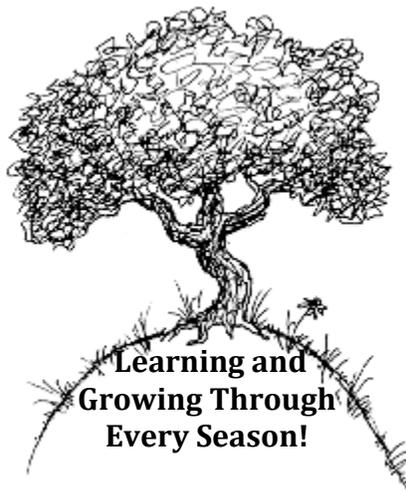


Bennington Elementary
Third Grade Curriculum Guide



Third Grade Curriculum Guide

As a school, we are committed to excellence in education. The standards that are embraced by the district are the building blocks upon which our curriculum is built. To start from the foundation then, here are the standards that are taught in third grade. Some of these standards will be reviewed, others will be introduced, and yet others will be tested for mastery. Keep in mind that not all of these standards will be mastered this year! Each grade level is responsible for different pieces, and so through a team effort, the standards will be met!

To find the Nebraska State Standards, please visit the websites below:

Language Arts standards:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/read/Standards/StandardsLinearBoardApproved.pdf>

Math Standards:

<http://nde.ne.gov/math/PDFs/MathStandardsAdopted10-08-09Vertical.pdf>

Science Standards:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/science/Documents/ArticulatedScienceSinWord.pdf>

Social Studies Standards:

http://nde.ne.gov/SS/Documents/2012December7VerticalNE_SocialStudiesStandardsApproved.pdf

Another important piece to our educational philosophy is in the area of Language Arts. The following is the Bennington Public Schools Language Arts Mission Statement, which will provide you with more information on our goals in this area as a school.

Bennington Public Schools Language Arts Mission Statement

Bennington Public Schools is committed to helping all students become successful readers, writers, listeners, and speakers.

Students will be provided with reading skills based on both the structure of language and the meaning of language in context that they can apply.

Bennington students will become independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers through a balanced literacy instructional program.

Bennington's balanced literacy program will consist of:

- systematic & explicit instruction in:
 - phonemic awareness
 - phonics
 - fluency
 - vocabulary
 - comprehension of both factual & fictional material
- reading aloud both student & teacher
- shared reading
- guided reading in flexible groups
- independent reading
- instruction in the Six-Trait Writing + 1 Model
 - voice
 - ideas
 - word choice
 - organization
 - fluency
 - conventions
 - presentation
- modeled and shared writing
- interactive writing
- independent writing
- speaking instruction & opportunities
- listening instruction & opportunities

Now that you have seen what we emphasize as a district, let's hone it down a little bit to what is going on in the third grade, specifically!

READING

The reading curriculum is based upon state and locally approved standards for learning. We will be reading a variety of different kinds of literature genres from the Harcourt reading series Storytown. This series allows for differentiation to best meet our students' needs. Our reading series integrates both reading and writing skills. Each unit of study has a theme. We incorporate reading, writing, and phonics into our reading lessons. We also integrate guided reading groups into our curriculum. Storytown supplies guided reading books that correspond with the whole group lessons, however from time to time we may use stories from our book room as well to further meet teaching objectives and student needs. These groups are very flexible and focus on each child's individual reading and phonics needs.

Literature Circles- As part of our preparation for 4th grade, 3rd graders will take part in literature circle novel studies. Students will read novels, actively participate in a discussion, and be responsible for carrying out a specific job related to the reading. This will take place sometime second semester.

Book Report- As part of a district assessment, your child will do a book report on a chapter book. This is usually done in 3rd quarter. More, detailed information will be sent home about this.

MATH

The math curriculum is based upon state and locally approved standards for student learning. Our curriculum will be derived from Pearson math series. We will be doing a variety of activities using writing, literature, manipulatives, and problem solving. Students still need to learn their basic addition and subtraction facts. We will be learning multiplication and division facts this year as well. Each day we will have a math review. If your child has homework, it may be a review sheet on basic facts or current skills we are studying.

SCIENCE

The science curriculum is based upon state and locally approved standards for student learning, as with all subject areas. The curriculum being reviewed is from Scott Foresman along with additional teacher supplemented learning experiences. We will be covering life science, physical science, and earth science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum is based upon state and locally approved standards for student learning, as with all subject areas. Our curriculum will be taken from the Scott Foresman social studies series, along with additional teacher supplemented learning experiences.

SPELLING

Bennington Elementary has adopted the Sitton Spelling series. The students' instruction will focus on spelling patterns, writing application, and word analysis. There is not a weekly spelling list, but a list of priority words (provided in beginning of year packet). These words will be recycled periodically throughout the year to help your child become a proficient speller. Assessment will take place at the end of each Unit, which is approximately ten days. The students "spelling words" will be presented in the context of a story.

WRITING

We will be doing a variety of writing in the classroom throughout the year. Our writing curriculum is Scholastic which is based upon the Six +1 Traits of writing. The traits are the foundational skills needed to be proficient writers across the curriculum.

HANDWRITING

Zaner-Bloser is our handwriting curriculum. A review of manuscript writing will take place first followed by introducing cursive writing.

Our specialists additionally have a specific curriculum which they are responsible for. Here is a summary of the concepts taught in these areas.

MUSIC

General/Vocal Music Kindergarten – Grade 3 Content Standards

Music lessons teach the following sequentially from Kindergarten through third grade, throughout the year and the sequence of grades.

- ❖ Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
 - High, medium, low ranges
 - Sing a pentatonic song with pitch accuracy
 - Sing from a varied repertoire of songs
 - Sing songs from different cultures and different eras
- ❖ Reading and Notation of Melody and rhythm
 - Steady beat, no beat, fast, slow
 - Short and long sounds, silence and sound
 - Quarter notes, half notes, eighth notes, whole notes and corresponding rests, 2/4, 3/4, & 4/4 meters
 - Space notes, line notes, melodic contour, upward, downward, pitch names
 - Bar line, measure, double bar line, repeat sign, ties, phrases,
 - Accent, staccato, marcato, legato, syncopation
 - Loud, soft, pp through ff dynamic markings, cresc., decresc.
 - Pentatonic scale, major scale
 - Learn and use notes as pitches and rhythm on the music staff
 - Recognize when melodies move by step, skip or repeated notes
 - Learn pitch names
 - Sharps, flats, naturals, treble clef, ledger lines,
- ❖ Perform on unpitched instruments, recognize instruments by sight and sound
 - Play a steady beat on instrument
 - Play a rhythm to a known song
 - Use instruments properly
 - Play rhythm notation
 - Recognize instrument families of the orchestra and band
 - Introduce instruments from different cultures
- ❖ Introducing the structural components of form and harmony.
 - Same/ different, using pictures, icons, letter, patterns,
 - Call and response, question and answer, Introduction, Interlude
 - Sectional forms: AB, ABA, Rondo, Theme and Variations

- ❖ Ostinato, round, countermelody, partner songs, harmony in 3rds & 6ths
- ❖ Composing, arranging and improvising melodies, rhythms, variations and accompaniments within specified guidelines as a class.
 - Listening to, analyzing, evaluating and describing music and music performances and styles
 - Listening to many different genres of musical style
 - Listening to or performing music of various cultures
- ❖ Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain the knowledge, understanding, and skills to practice healthy physical activities throughout their lives. All students are taught to work together and treat others with respect and good sportsmanship.

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Guidance classes as well as small group lessons and individual guidance assistance are an integral part of the school curriculum. Guidance lessons are designed to promote student growth in three areas: social/emotional domain, academic/educational domain, and career/occupational domain. The school counselor works with staff and parents in various ways to support a positive school experience for all students.

Third Grade Art Curriculum

The elementary art curriculum encompasses the Art Elements and Design Principles in a comprehensive art education model and uses the National Art Standards and SRA Art Connections. Third Grade students will focus on 6 different units in Art.

Line & Shape: Third graders will learn to use different kinds of lines. They will study kinds of lines, line variations, & geometric and free-form shapes.

Space & Form: Third graders will learn about and practice techniques to create the appearance of space on a flat surface. They will also learn about 3D forms. The topics they will study are space, depth, overlapping, form, & sculpture.

Color & Value: Third graders will learn about colors and the moods they create. They will practice mixing and using colors. The topics they will study are primary and secondary colors, value, intermediate colors, color wheel, warm and cool colors, & color contrast.

Texture & Balance: Third graders will learn about texture and balance, and how other artists use these features in their designs. The topics they will study are formal balance, formal balance in masks, symmetry, approximate symmetry, visual texture, & tactile texture.

Pattern, Rhythm, & Movement: Third graders will learn about pattern, rhythm, and movement, and how other artists use these methods in their designs. The topics they will study are pattern and motif, regular patterns, alternating patterns, rhythm, visual rhythm, & three-dimensional rhythm.

Harmony, Variety, Emphasis, & Unity: Third graders will learn and practice techniques for creating harmony, variety, and emphasis. You will also learn how harmony and variety create a feeling of unity. The topics they will study include harmony, variety, emphasis, & unity.

TECHNOLOGY

Kindergarten – Grade 6

Content Standards

Technology is taught sequentially from Kindergarten through sixth grade. New skills are introduced at each grade level. Mastery of age appropriate skills begins in second grade and continues on. Performance indicators have been determined for each grade and check lists have been developed to track the growth of skills for each student. Skills have been divided into 5 general areas with specific skills in each area.

Skills **Mastered** at Third Grade

- Proper way to exit a program
- Proper way to turn computer on and off
- Use proper body position for keyboarding
- Use of number and letter keys, shift key, and use of basic punctuation keys
- Use mouse to double click and drag
- Enter and delete text
- Understand wrap around text
- Use simple graphic software
- Access Teacher web sites
- Maneuver within web-based resources

SPANISH

Spanish will meet once a week, in the classroom, for twenty minutes. The students will review past concepts learned in second grade, and then progress forward in the language.

REPORT CARDS

Each quarter students will receive a report card. In third grade, students will have a percentage grade, which corresponds with a letter for the core subject areas of Reading, English, Spelling, and Math. The grade scale is as follows:

A+=99-100%	B+=91-92%	C+=84-85%	D+=75-76%
A=98-95%	B= 88-90%	C=79-83%	D=73-74%
A-=93-94%	B-=86-87%	C-=77-78%	D-=70-72%
F=69% and below			

Social Studies and Science grades will also be based upon a letter grade of O (Outstanding), S (Satisfactory), and N (Needs Improvement).

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

The school system assesses students according to procedures in its local assessment plan which meets the assessment requirements specified by the Nebraska Department of Education's Rule 10: *Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools*.

Our students are assessed on the following tests:

Criterion-Reference Tests: These are given in the subject areas of reading, language arts, science, and math.

Standardized Tests: Terra Nova achievement tests are administered in the fall. Nebraska State Accountability Test (NeSA) will be given in both Reading and Math in the spring.

STATE READING AND MATH ASSESSMENTS:

Reading: NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability test) will be administered in the Spring electronically.

Math: NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability test) Graphing, Geometry, Telling Time, Addition and Subtraction will be a large part of the third grade math curriculum and will be included in the NeSA test.

Here is some additional information about our day to day classroom life that we thought would be beneficial and helpful for you to know!

HOMEWORK PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

Students will have homework each week. A rule of thumb concerning homework is that students should have approximately ten minutes per night, per grade level. This means that in third grade, they should be having around a half hour of homework to provide adequate practice to show proficiency and mastery of skills. However, this may depend upon how well they use their time in school! They will have opportunities throughout the day where they may work on their homework assignments. Homework is expected to be completed by the following day. Failure to complete an assignment will result in the student signing a designated notebook and a slip will be sent home to be signed by a parent or guardian. Three times signing the book will result in a detention.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Our discipline policy focuses on prevention focusing on the Disciple with Purpose (DWP) skills. By creating a positive environment with clear expectations, we hope to eliminate potential conflicts. Students are part of the establishment of their own classroom rules, and expectations are clearly defined.

SEMESTER MILK AND SNACK

Students are able to purchase milk from the school and the student may also have a healthy snack brought from home.