Welcome to 3rd GRADE!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sets expectations, or standards, for what *every* student will know and be able to do in school. This guide is designed to help you understand those standards and partner with teachers to support your child's learning during third grade. If you have questions about this information or your child needs extra help, please talk to your child's teacher.

To talk to your child about school, you can ask:

- Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- What **scientific ideas** did you talk about today?
- What did you learn about your **role in society** today?
- How did someone help you learn today?

If your child is also learning English, you can ask:

- How does your teacher help you understand and participate in class?
- How do you work on your English while you learn academic material?

TO LEARN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY at every grade, your child will:

- Read various texts, like books, poems, letters, news articles, and Internet pages.
- Speak and listen in formal and informal ways, like presentations and conversations.
- Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.

TO LEARN MATHEMATICS at every grade, your child will:

- Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- Use math to make arguments about why something is true or false.
- Use tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- Use patterns and the structures of numbers to think about math.

TO LEARN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING at every grade, your child will:

- Ask scientific questions about the natural world and things humans design.
- Learn through various experiences, like observations and experiments.
- Solve problems using the skills and tools of engineers and scientists.
- Share solutions and communicate explanations of how the world works.

TO LEARN HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE at every grade, your child will:

- Learn about their local community and about the state, country, and world.
- Discover how people and events from the past relate to the present.
- Work to understand how different people see the world differently.
- Use various sources of information in research, discussion, and inquiry.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Updated Summer 2019

Massachusetts PTA

The next four pages focus more specifically on the Massachusetts learning standards for **3rd GRADE.**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY

NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Refer to specific parts of a text when speaking or writing about what it means. For example, when reading a story, explain how a character's words or actions show that she is brave.
- Notice differences between literal and figurative language. For example, the "step" is literal in with the next step he reached the finish line but figurative in the next step is finding a partner.
- Organize writing in ways that help readers understand. For example, use linking words and phrases like "another reason" and "after that" to connect ideas and information.
- Improve writing by making changes. Changes can be larger (like explaining ideas more fully) or smaller (like fixing spelling mistakes).

BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- Stay on topic and ask and answer questions during class discussions.
- Notice differences between written and spoken English.
- Sound out words with two or more syllables. Use story clues to guess what words mean.
- Use a simple dictionary to find out how a word is spelled or what it means.
- Read aloud smoothly, not just one word at a time. Notice and try to fix mistakes while reading.
- Use pictures, headings, and other visual clues to help understand a story or article.
- Use books as well as other sources (like videos and websites) when doing research.
- Read two or more books on the same topic. Notice what is the same and different.
- Read traditional stories, like myths. Understand a story's lesson or message for readers.
- Describe characters in a story. Explain how their actions affect what happens.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Who is the story about? What kind of person (or people) are they?
- What do you think the author is trying to tell you? How do you know?
- What do you think that word might mean? How can you figure it out?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Books and authors to look for at the library
- Types of writing your child is working on

FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Understand multiplication and division and how they are related. For example, use multiplication to find the cost of 10 apples and division to find the cost of 1 apple.
- Understand fractions and how they represent real-world situations. For example, use fractions to compare how much pizza two people eat.
- Understand connections between multiplication and the areas of shapes. For example, find the area of a room using floor tiles.
- Describe, analyze, and compare shapes like rectangles and squares. For example, explain that any shape with four sides can be called a quadrilateral.

BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- Solve two-step word problems using multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction.
- Explain what the answer to a division problem means in the problem's context.
- Know multiplication and division facts up to $9 \times 9 = 81$ and $81 \div 9 = 9$.
- Fluently (quickly and correctly) multiply and divide numbers up to 100.
- Fluently (quickly and correctly) add and subtract numbers under 1,000 using various methods.
- Understand that fractions are numbers that represent parts of a whole.
- Explain how to know whether two simple fractions (like $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$) are equal.
- Use symbols to compare simple fractions: for example, $\frac{1}{2} > \frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{2}{5} < \frac{3}{5}$.
- Place fractions on a number line along with whole numbers (like 2 and 5).
- Solve problems using units of time (like minutes), mass (like grams), and volume (like liters).
- Understand and use area and perimeter. Find the area and perimeter of shapes like rectangles.
- Sort shapes into categories: for example, shapes with right (90°) angles.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Can you measure half a cup of milk for the muffins we're making?
- How can we lay out our game cards so we have the same number in each row?
- How are fractions like other numbers? Can you put them together to make other numbers?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Which multiplication and division strategies that work well for your child
- Games that can help your child practice math at home

MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Understand connections among humans, earth systems, and the environment. For example, think about how people can reduce damage caused by weather.
- Understand the different life cycles of plants and animals. For example, compare the life cycles of a sunflower, a bird, and a frog.
- Understand life and environments that existed on Earth long ago. For example, use fossils to understand that some types of plants and animals no longer exist.
- Understand the concept of force and how forces sometimes balance each other out. For example, explore how magnets push or pull each other.

BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- Use graphs and charts to talk about weather patterns around the world.
- Understand that plants and animals can grow and reproduce in different ways.
- Explain how specific characteristics help living things survive (like how thorns protect roses from being eaten by animals).
- Explore the difference between inherited traits (like eye color) and traits caused by something in the environment (like when a plant is small because it gets too little sunlight).
- Understand that when an environment changes, some plants and animals survive and reproduce, some move to other places, and some die.
- Explore how objects move and affect each other. Explain how they move differently over rough and smooth surfaces.
- Draw or build models to show possible solutions to a problem (like how to design safe playground equipment).

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- What will the weather be like this week? How do you know?
- How do engineers figure out how to solve problems?
- What happens to plants and animals when their environment changes?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- Places in the community that can help your child learn science

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Explain self-government and how it might look in a classroom (with rules, rights, and responsibilities).
- Research the early history of your town or city and of Massachusetts and New England.
- Understand relationships among Native Peoples, Europeans, and Africans in early Massachusetts.
- Explain how Massachusetts people and events contributed to the American Revolution.

BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- Explain how local (town and city) governments are organized in Massachusetts and how to participate in them.
- Find the Northeast United States on a map. Find and name the New England states.
- Describe the various Native Peoples who live or lived in Massachusetts and New England.
- Explain how the Native Peoples in this area first met Europeans in the 1500s and 1600s. Describe what the Europeans thought about the Native Peoples and the environment.
- Explain why the Pilgrims settled in the Plymouth Colony. Describe the Mayflower Compact, the challenges Pilgrims faced, and their relationships with Native Peoples.
- Use primary sources (like letters and journal entries) to analyze daily life in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Name the early leaders of the Puritans and describe the Puritans' relationships with Native Peoples.
- Describe the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution (including the Bill of Rights), and the Massachusetts Constitution.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Why are governments important?
- What are the states that make up New England?
- What rights does the Bill of Rights give people?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Books about local history to look for at the library
- Places nearby that are important to the history of Native Peoples

NORWOOD SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Students will throw and catch, with emphasis on creating and using passing options.
- Students will apply movement concepts to a variety of different games.

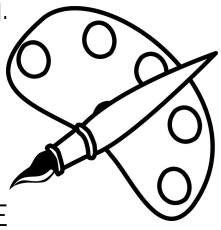
BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE STUDENTS CAN:

- Understand the importance of participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity outside of school.
- Apply simple strategies and tactics in chasing and fleeing activities.
- Demonstrate throwing or striking skills with different amounts of force, as required by the situation.
- Dribble with hands and feet in general space at slow to moderate speed with control.
- Perform a sequence, transitioning from one skill to another without hesitation in dance and gymnastics.
- Understand that striking and hitting with consistency is important for development with striking games and sports.

ART

FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Explore drawing, painting, 3D design, and printmaking.



BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE STUDENTS CAN:

- Draw using both large scale items and figures.
- Using advanced brush techniques for mixing colors and washes.
- Identifying appropriate lettering and spacing.
- Creating 3D clay sculptures to show negative and positive space.

MUSIC

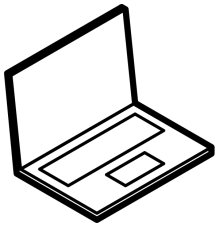
FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Develop their singing technique
- Explore increasingly complex melodic and rhythmic concepts.

BY THE END OF THIRD GRADE STUDENTS CAN:

- Read music notation is introduced and all
- students are taught to play the recorder.
- Interested students may elect to take violin lessons which are taught by a string specialist during the school day.

LIBRARY



FOCUS AREAS FOR THIRD GRADE:

- Choosing appropriate resources for research and extracting relevant information.
- Understanding Norwood's *Responsible Use Agreement.*
- Learning to prevent and respond to cyberbullying.
- Continuing to explore and use features of their Google drive accounts.
- Beginning to use algorithms that solve challenging problems in coding.
- Practicing keyboarding skills.