

THIRD GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values.

Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) theme for third-grade is the life of Christ and the early Church. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects, and memory verses are integrated into lessons. Students are provided a workbook that includes daily real-life applications and engaging activities.



Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) presents world-class literature, both classic and contemporary works, that are broad in their scope, intellectually challenging, and morally focused. The program is rigorous and engaging, and it thoughtfully explores family values and ethics. Third-grade literature is a two-book set that integrates language arts and literature with Lessons in Literature that precede each prose selection. They teach a progression of language arts skills that build on one another and are specifically geared toward the third grader. The books are filled with short stories, a complete chapter book, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Fourth-grade literature displays the beauty of language and the imagery and complexity of fine stories integrating literature and language arts as well. The content fosters thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior



Writing & Grammar:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum entitled, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style, is a highly structured and powerful methodology of teaching writing, and students write daily. Structure refers to organizational models for writing, which are explored and reinforced each year at ever-increasing levels of sophistication firmly internalized by students. The sequence of structural units teaches students a consistent method for composing clear and cohesive paragraphs as well as a reliable system for organizing narrative and expository writing. Style is a collection of tools that students use to achieve variety and competence in expression. It is through the employing of the stylistic techniques that students become competent in using interesting vocabulary, employ a variety of sentence structures, and gain an understanding of grammar. It is through this methodology that the writing process is broken down into clear, easy to understand steps, and students of any ability are able to gain confidence and competence in writing in an organized manner, using strong imagery and examples with cohesive paragraphs. Grammar is taught within the context of good writing and embedded in the writing curriculum.



Handwriting:

In third grade, the manuscript component from the Wilson Foundations curriculum is reinforced at the beginning of the year then their cursive program is introduced as the year progresses. This provides step-by-step directions and practice for learning correct and consistent letter formation for both lower- and upper-case letters.



Spelling:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) Spelling Plus curriculum provides so much more than just spelling. It incorporates grammar, writing, genres of writing and literature, Greek and Latin roots and more. Lessons are developed to meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Lessons provide activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organizes words by their spelling sounds, then adds additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. They also naturally integrate a biblical worldview within lessons and word lists that include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



Math:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum incorporates rigorous standards and benchmarks for math literacy and learning, including those of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It uses a variety of manipulatives, investigation, and modeling to produce students who understand the concepts and can think mathematically. There is an emphasis on a STEM interdisciplinary approach, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in hands-on and relevant learning opportunities. It also integrates an authentic biblical Christian worldview perspective of mathematics. Third-grade continue building and expanding on the previous grade level concepts and review previous concepts utilizing lessons with hands-on activities, conceptual understanding, problem solving, application, modeling, reasoning, and strands of algebra and geometry. Third grade then adds decimals and equations, multiplication, division, a concentrated focus on memorizing math facts, and expands their study of geometry.



Science:

Mystery Science and ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum are both utilized throughout the year. Mystery Science will be utilized as the primary curriculum, and is an online, video-based, hands-on curriculum covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical Science. All lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectation, science and engineering practice, disciplinary core idea, and crosscutting concept. Every lesson begins with a mystery to solve and incorporates interesting and informative video clips and hands-on activities that lead students in the doing of science and engineering. A complete kit containing most of the hands-on materials needed for each lesson has also been purchased. ACSI's science program will serve as a supplementary curriculum and provides



