

## 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. Strong emphasis is placed on the application of biblical truths to the daily lives of third grade students. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects, and memory verses are integrated into lessons.



### Literature:

The third grade reading emphasis shifts from learning to read to reading to learn. In third grade, students begin reading in a Literature series published by Modos Press, made available through



ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l). This series is used through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 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. 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 Fundations 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 is the curriculum teachers use to teach spelling. While there are no workbooks, the lessons teachers use from the curriculum meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Teachers provide a variety of activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organize words by their spelling sounds, then add additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. Word lists include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



## Math:

Big Ideas Math, Modeling Real Life is a rigorous program that provides a balance of three important building blocks. These are: (1) Conceptual Understanding-Discovering why; (2)



Procedural Fluency-Learning how; and (3) Application-Knowing when to apply what has been learned and applying it to real life. Newton and Descartes are a dog and cat team of math assistants who encourage students to think deeply about math concepts and develop strong mathematical mindsets, as well as learning to ask why, and to reason and communicate with others as they learn. Music, games, and

hands-on manipulatives help ensure that math is both fun and understandable. In Third Grade students use a variety of strategies to understand multiplication and division concepts as well as developing proficiency in multiplication patterns, computational procedures, and the memorization of math facts. They explore various facets of area, the distributive property, rounding and estimating numbers, develop fluency in adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers, the use of multiples, examine the basics of fractions, equivalencies and the comparison of fractions, learn about time, liquid volume, and mass, classifying two-dimensional shapes, data and graphing, and finding perimeter and area.



## Science:

Mystery Science 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. Where it is lacking, we ask teachers to provide students with a biblical worldview of science and may supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content where appropriate.



## Social Studies:

Bob Jones University Press' *World Regions* Heritage Studies textbook introduces students to the major world regions by exploring the government, geography, climate, economics, cultures, and religions of each one. Students will find engaging visuals and stories that introduce them to different cultures, as well as missionary features that show how God is at work building His kingdom around the world. Activities, discussion questions, timelines, maps, and online searches are also employed to aid students' comprehension and retention of the materials. Some historical fiction novels may also be used.

