



WISSAHICKON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Elementary Curriculum Information for Parents

Grade 3

Third Grade is an exciting time for students. There are multiple learning opportunities offered throughout the school day with a strong emphasis on developing the whole child: academically, socially, and emotionally.

The classroom schedules have been designed to create large, uninterrupted blocks of instructional time; in addition, the 30-minute, “Practice, Intervention and Enrichment”, known as PIE time, will allow for further differentiation and individualization of instruction for all students. Our K-5 schools follow a 12-day rotation cycle for the Encore classes, which includes Art, Music, Health and Physical Education, Library, and School Counseling. Recess is a time when our students take a break from learning in the classroom in order to engage in more informal interactions with their peers. Recess supports the development of social skills and the overall health and well-being of our students. During this time, students engage in unstructured play and make choices, develop rules for play, and practice important social skills such as sharing, taking turns, being a good sport, cooperating, listening to others, and solving conflicts.

If you have any questions regarding your child’s educational program, please contact your child’s teacher for more information.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program in Wissahickon is an intensive exploration of oral, visual, and technological communication. In third grade, students follow the language and literacy framework, which provides a structure to help students construct meaning in their lives through reading and writing. Skills taught in third grade include:

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words;
- Determine the main idea of a text, recount the key details, and explain how they support the main idea;
- Explain the point of view of the author;
- Describe how an author connects sentences and paragraphs in a text to support particular points;
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Read and comprehend literary fiction on grade level, reading independently and proficiently;
- Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information;
- Write an opinion with reasons related to the opinion;
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or event;
- Develop a narrative topic with facts, definitions, details, and illustrations;
- Write opinion pieces on familiar topics or texts and support an opinion with reasons;
- Use a variety of words and sentence types to appeal to the audience;
- Demonstrate a grade appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Practice the correct formation of letters in cursive and use cursive writing in select assignments by the mid-year.

Wissahickon uses *Wonders*, by McGraw-Hill, as the core English-Language Arts program. Using a rich range of diverse print and digital media, *Wonders* provides the instructional support and materials to teach the rigor, intent, and depth of the Pennsylvania Core Standards.



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MATHEMATICS

The Wissahickon Mathematics program is a dynamic curriculum integrating the computation, problem-solving, and the use of manipulatives and mathematical tools. Students in third grade are taught the following concepts:

- Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic;
- Solve problems involving multiplication and division;
- Demonstrate multiplication and division fluency to 100;
- Identify, compare, and classify shapes and their attributes;
- Understand fractions as a unit part of the whole;
- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of temperature, liquid volume, mass, and length;
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute;
- Make change involving money using a combination of coins and bills;
- Represent and interpret data using tally charts, tables, pictographs, line plots, and bar graphs;
- Solve problems involving perimeters of polygons and determine the area of a rectangle.

As the core Mathematics program, Wissahickon uses the *Everyday Math 4*, developed at the University of Chicago. To help develop students' mathematics fact fluency, the district currently subscribes to *First in Math*, a web-based program that encourages students to practice basic mathematics facts while also honing their problem-solving skills.

ENCORE SUBJECTS

Third grade students also study Art, Health and Physical Education, Library, and Music. Additionally, all students have the opportunity to work with our School Counselor as they develop their academic, career, and social skills. Students attend these encore classes on a weekly basis. In addition to the General Music program, third graders who wish to begin instrumental music instruction have the opportunity to enroll in the school orchestra program.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students in third grade study history, geography, economy, and civics and government through topics such as: *The US Physical Geography*, *Our Country's History*, *Citizenship*, *Government*, *Working in the Community*, and *Saving and Spending Money*. During Social Studies, students are engaged in classroom discussions, literature selections, digital learning, simulations and explorations, as well as reading and writing assignments.

SCIENCE

Wissahickon third graders study a Science curriculum based on three hands-on kits: Solar System, Light, and Habitats. During these explorations, students act as scientists following the scientific process, making hypotheses, and testing their conjectures. They revise their thinking based on experiments, collecting and organizing data, and then analyzing that data to develop new understandings. It is an inquiry-based program supplemented by both related literature and informational texts.