

Dear Parent,



We're excited to have your child in Third Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.

This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in English and Language Arts.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Third Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help students:

Communicate Ideas

- Read and understand fiction and non-fiction materials.
- Write clear and correct sentences, paragraphs and compositions.
- Create meaning as they listen, speak, view, read and write.
- Use language to express ideas to different audiences and for different purposes.



Understand Literature

- Read, respond to, and reflect on ideas found in a variety of materials.
- Explore and reflect on universal themes in oral, visual, and written texts.
- Apply what is learned to everyday life.

Use Language

- Identify and use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Describe and use various story elements.
- Use main ideas with supporting details in writing.
- Express ideas creatively.
- Explore and use tools found in books and media to help with understanding.

Apply Knowledge

- Develop and use strategies to connect what they're learning to their lives.
- Check their own progress when using these strategies.
- Evaluate their work using set guidelines.

In Third Grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

Communicate Ideas

- Write for different purposes (e.g., to inform, for enjoyment, to request something).
- Write stories, poetry and reports.
- Share writing with other students for the purpose of improving the writing.
- Exhibit individual style and voice in writing.
- Use word choice and sentence structure or patterns to add interest to written works.
- Read 3rd grade level text books in science and social studies to gain knowledge.
- Apply rules of grammar, punctuation and capitalization when writing.
- Spell frequently encountered words correctly and use resources to check spelling.
- Write the upper and lower case letters in cursive.
- Give presentations and reports.
- Use correct verb tenses.
- Adjust language to communicate with a variety of audiences for different purposes (e.g., presentation, discussion, requests, playground).
- Become aware of and appreciate language differences.
- Use nonverbal skills to enhance communication.

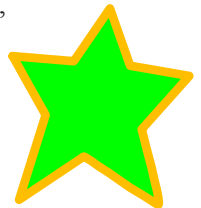


Understand Literature

- Retell the story elements, major ideas and relevant details of both fiction and non-fiction selections.
- Use a variety of books (fiction and non-fiction) to compare and contrast relationships between characters, events and key ideas (e.g., reading fictional and non-fictional accounts of the sinking of the Titanic).
- Identify and describe characters' thoughts and motivations, the main idea and lesson/moral in narrative text.

Use Language

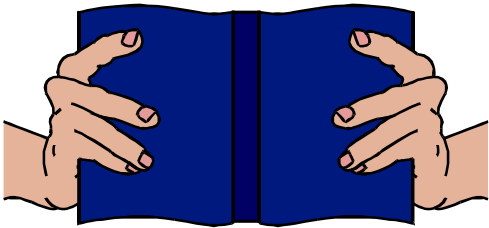
- Apply phonics skills and strategies (e.g., chunking, base words, and suffixes) to figure out unknown words.
- Recognize the 220 most frequently used basic sight words and progress to reading the first 1,000 sight words.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in context using strategies and resources.
- Identify and describe different types of narratives (e.g., folktales, realistic fiction, historical fiction).
- Use a variety of ways to summarize (e.g., graphic organizers, book talks, reader's theater).
- Identify, describe and use a variety of informational resources (e.g., textbooks, magazines, encyclopedias, Internet).
- Explain how elements of informational text (e.g., titles, headings, time lines, glossary, graphics and captions) enhance understanding of key ideas.



In Third Grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

Use Language

- Write stories for a variety of audiences.
- Use pre-writing strategies (e.g., story maps, webs, diagrams,) to organize ideas.
- Use tools such as dictionary, spell check, thesaurus to edit and improve the writing.



Apply Knowledge

- Make personal connections when reading or listening to literature.
- Use strategies (e.g., predicting, inferring, re-reading, and summarizing) to self-monitor and increase comprehension.
- Select, listen to, view and respond thoughtfully to literature and compare their responses to those of their peers.



Communicate Ideas

- Get your child a library card and visit the library together, regularly.
- Read aloud to your child every day. Choose all kinds of material.
- Talk to your child about his or her favorite things.
- Ask questions about the movies you watch together.
- Model good listening for your child. Pay attention when your child is talking.
- Encourage conversations at home (dinner together, a "No TV" night).
- Use different words for the same idea (e.g., said, replied, answered, responded, told).



Understand Literature

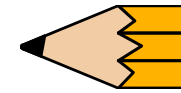
- Ask "wh" questions as you read a book together or when your child is talking about a book (Who, What, When, etc.).
- Give your child things that need to be put together by following written directions.
- Give your child a magazine subscription as a gift.

Use Language

- Have your child keep a diary of family trips, etc.
- Write notes to your child and put them in his/her lunch.
- Encourage your child to write stories.

Apply Knowledge

- Give your child a reason to write (thank-you notes, a journal, grocery list).
- Help your child make connections between what is read and himself or herself, other material that was read, and what your child knows about the world.




Whitmore Lake Elementary School

In Third Grade, we're teaching your child important reading and language skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?



...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
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(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>