

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 Social Studies.

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 Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key, historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

In Third Grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help your child:

Express informed opinions

- Use and construct tools such as graphs, timelines, maps, reference materials and resources in all content areas to locate, gather, and use information to solve problems, make decisions and support an idea.
- Engage in classroom discussions that encourage open expression of different points of view.



Think historically

- Read historical fiction and non-fiction texts about our past.
- Read biographies and autobiographies.
- Use timelines to understand the order of historic events.

Describe our world

- Describe how rural and urban communities have changed over time.
- Learn about the different physical features and regions of the United States.
- Read maps using the map title, map key, and direction indicator to answer questions.
- Use maps, globes and other resources to help understand why communities are located where they are.



- Discuss the effects of people on the environment and ways to take care of the environment.

Be effective citizens

- Build a classroom community by defining rules, developing rewards and consequences and help students understand their responsibilities in the school community.
- Describe ways people in the community make it a better place to live, such as taking care of the environment, volunteerism, and supporting schools.
- Learn the responsibilities of citizenship with emphasis on the core Democratic values.
- Learn the major functions and different levels of government.



Make informed economic decisions

- Learn that consumers are people who purchase goods and services, and producers are people who make goods and services.
- Study how goods such as automobiles are made, including a study of planning, manufacturing and the development and use of assembly lines.

Parents:
Here are some easy ways to help your child practice Social Studies skills.

Express informed opinions

- Point out graphics used in newspapers and on TV that support the information.
- Talk with your child about your opinions on political candidates or election issues.
- Discuss a person's right to his or her own point of view even if it may be different from your own.



Think historically

- Read historic fiction, historic non-fiction, and biographies of historic figures.
- Go to museums such as the Museum of Natural History in Ann Arbor, The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.
- Discuss the history of your family and use maps to show how your ancestors have moved to different places.

Describe our world

- Point out the ways that the shapes of the land and water change (plains, hills, mountains, lakes, rivers, and oceans) when you travel.

- Have your child use maps during activities such as trips to the mall, taking walks in parks or on road trips.
- Help your child understand the importance of taking care of the environment by reducing waste, recycling and reusing resources whenever possible.

Be effective citizens

- Take your child with you when you vote.
- Visit the State or National Capital.
- Attend open houses at the local police and fire departments.
- Model respectful behavior toward public officials such as police officers and firefighters.
- Discuss how the taxes you pay support local and national services such as fire departments, schools, support for families, parks and armed services.



Make informed economic decisions

- Give your child an allowance to use to buy goods or services.
- Talk about how you make financial decisions for your family.
- Open a lemonade stand. Have your child pay for the materials to make the lemonade, determine how much to charge for the lemonade, and how to advertise the lemonade stand.



*...exceptional,
personalized education*

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:

Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>



In Third Grade,
we're teaching
your child
important
citizenship
skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?