

# 3rd Grade Academics

*The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The third grade curriculum is fully aligned with state content expectations, is challenging, differentiated, project driven, and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.*

## Language Arts:

Our third grade English Language Arts program continues to develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding skills. Your child will increase his/her ability to automatically read by sight, apply various aspects of fluency, such as pauses and emphasis, punctuation cues, and intonation, and analyze and synthesize information and thoughts. Students will build a larger tool box of writing skills such as pre-organizer, setting an audience, and sentence variation. Students will become self aware, confident readers, writers and speakers that use various communicating skills and mediums to gain or share knowledge for learning. The third grade English Language Arts student will do the following:

- Improve word decoding skills and strategies to increase fluency and comprehension with increasingly demanding text as the year proceeds
- Continue to analyze elements and style of an expanding list of narrative genres (poetry, myths/legends, fantasy, adventure) and study how authors use various tools and literary devices to develop themes, characters, and issues
- Increase knowledge of style, organizational patterns and elements of information genre and use this knowledge to improve and apply comprehension strategies in production of their own informational writings
- Refine and strengthen strategies, knowledge, and organization tools to self-monitor comprehension and to take initiative to recognize and correct comprehension challenges
- Continue to develop ability to set a purpose, and replicate author's styles and patterns, pre-writing skills and writing strategies across an increasing number of writing genres
- Strengthen process writing skills while focusing on the development of pre-planning and drafting strategies using various graphic organizers
- Develop and apply editing and revising skills, sound paragraphs, personal style, voice, grammar and spelling skills, and apply to various narrative pieces (myth/legend, fantasy, adventure), poetry, comparative pieces and a science-based research project.

## Science:

Third grade students combine open-ended project learning and informational inquiry learning skills to study specific units within the earth, biological and physical science fields. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in previous grades are strengthened and broadened. Students are provided opportunities to apply significant knowledge from what is read in grade level science texts of various origins. Specific units of study are as follows:

- Animals with organ systems
- Simple machines
- Weather
- Water cycles
- Lakes, rivers, streams and ponds

## Mathematics:

Third grade mathematics studies continue to build number and operations skills and fluency. In working with numbers, place value expands as students compose and decompose numbers into various formats. Addition and subtraction skills continue to become more sophisticated. Multiplication and division concepts and their relationship to each other begin to develop. Simple fraction operations are introduced. Basic elements of geometry such as line relationships, and properties of three dimensional objects are also explored. Measurement for time, length, weight/mass and temperature are practiced. Estimation skills continue to be expanded. Students continue to work with data sets and displaying these in multiple ways. Units of study include the following:

- Number notation and place value
- Operations in addition and subtraction
- Operations in multiplication and division, skip counting, even-odd numbers
- Estimation and measurement
- Simple fraction operations, simple equivalent fractions
- Money operations and decimal notation, making change
- Geometric shapes, three dimensional solids, angles, intersecting lines, symmetry and transformation, area, and perimeter
- Data analysis and multiple representations of data sets.

## Social Studies:

Using the context of early Michigan History, students learn fundamental concepts in history, geography, civics and government, and economics. The concept of regions is explored through studying the different regions of Michigan, their resources and movement of people around Michigan. Students expand their knowledge of local government to state government. Students continue to develop their understanding of core democratic values. Units of study include the following:

- Thinking like historians
- Regions of Michigan
- Early Michigan history
- Michigan's natural resources and their impact on our lives, both past and present, here and afar
- State government
- Public issues and citizen involvement



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

# 3rd Grade Arts

*The Academy places an equal emphasis on the arts and academic subjects within our curriculum. To achieve this, our arts programs have two distinctive goals. The first goal is achieved through the arts and academics integration process, where by academic concepts studied in the classroom are studied and reinforced through the arts. Secondly, specific arts skills, which have been aligned with the state and national standards for the arts, are studied with the intent of developing basic competencies. In grades 3 and 4, students will attend classes in all art forms for integration with the academic curriculum each week. In addition, students will have an opportunity to pursue two art forms in more depth to develop skills in those art forms.*

**Dance:** Concepts introduced in third grade include using movement to respond to different ideas, isolation of body parts, using symmetry in dance, and learning a dance from another culture.

Third grade dancers will do the following:

- Learn basic skills in ballet, tap and jazz
- Understand basic similarities and differences between these three dance genres
- Demonstrate use of pathway and direction while traveling in the space
- Demonstrate various shapes with changes in form, level and direction
- Demonstrate partnering in a variety of ways
- Create and demonstrate a dance sentence with beginning, middle and end
- Demonstrate knowledge of symmetrical and asymmetrical shapes changing an everyday movement to become more abstract
- Performing a dance from a different country or culture
- Use dance to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

**Music:** Concepts introduced in third grade include using the singing voice properly, learning tempo and dynamic terms, and creating accompaniment using a variety of instruments.

Third grade musicians will do the following:

- Understand note values
- Know notes on a staff
- Understand time signatures, counting, intervals and rests
- Sing and play a small piece from memory
- Use head and chest voices appropriately, proper posture and good diction
- Sing partner songs and rounds
- Respond to cues of the conductor
- Use music to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

**Drama:** Concepts introduced in third grade include comparing and contrasting the different components of plays, simple dramatic techniques, and improvisation.

Third grade actors will do the following:

- Demonstrate variations in movement and voice
- Compare characters from history and literature to those of their imagination
- Explore use of space and other simple dramatic techniques
- Analyze the effectiveness of the group's improvised dramatization
- Compare and contrast characters, plots and settings
- Use drama to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

**Visual Art:** Concepts introduced in third grade include using art to tell a story, reading others art for meaning and exploring the elements of art using a variety of materials.

Third grade artists will do the following:

- Demonstrate responsible and safe use of a variety of art materials
- Choose materials based on their aesthetic qualities and ability to communicate the intended message
- Apply knowledge of proportion when drawing existing objects
- Mix the primary colors to make secondary colors applying the basic rules of mixing and using black or white in color mixing to alter tone or mood.
- Create space in artwork using basic perspective of overlap, size change and placement
- Analyze and discuss how the artist uses elements of art to communicate meaning
- Use art to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines.

