

Math

The Illinois Learning Standards encourage students to explore mathematical ideas through a deeper understanding of key mathematical concepts and an in-depth study.

An emphasis is placed on helping students recognize that there are a variety of ways to accomplish a task, and encouraging them to use the best tools and strategies for solving problems.

Student's skill levels are assessed based on what have been determined to be beginning, developing, and secure goals within each unit of study.

All students are expected to master multiplication facts by the end of Third Grade. The Otter Creek Math Curriculum will be used to support math fact fluency.

Organization

A strong emphasis is placed on organizational skills during third grade. Your child's folders are labeled for each subject. Special reference sheets and assignments are kept in each folder. A special take home folder keeps papers including homework assignments and notes organized as they are sent between school and home. The student planner contains daily and weekly homework assignments. The classroom teacher will sign daily. Parents should initial daily indicating that homework has been completed.

Friday Folder—The purpose of your child's Friday Folder is twofold. First, it allows all graded assignments to come home together on a consistent day of the week. Second, and most important, the folder provides a great way for us to communicate to you what your child is doing at school and the progress he or she is making. Please spend time each week reviewing the folder's content. Unless otherwise noted, papers sent home in the Friday Folder should not be returned to school.

Homework

In third grade, homework becomes more formal and requires more time and effort on behalf of the student. Parents are encouraged to commit the time and energy needed to monitor the child's home study and completion of assignments. If your child is experiencing great difficulty with a particular assignment, or circumstances arise that do not allow your child to complete an assignment on time, please write me a note explaining the situation.

Aside from nightly homework assignments which may range from 20 to 30 minutes for completion, students are also expected to:

- Read for a minimum of 15 minutes each night.
- Practice math facts each night.
- Study their assigned list of spelling words in preparation for Thursday's posttest.

According to district policy, homework is not graded. Please refer to the District Homework Policy for more specific information.

Peterson Elementary School IPSD #204

Third Grade Curriculum Guide



Mrs. Kempski, Miss McNichols,
Mrs. O'Boyle

(630)-428-5678

katie_kempski@ipsd.org
frances_mcnichols@ipsd.org
katie_oboyle@ipsd.org

Reading

In third grade students will have the opportunity to read a variety of texts. The majority of our stories are taken from the *Harcourt Trophies* anthology. Throughout the year students will also participate in novel studies. Aside from the stories we will read as a whole class, students will also read short stories at their individual reading level.

Some of the skills and strategies that we will focus on during reading include:

- Use a combination of word analysis and vocabulary strategies to decode, and understand, and apply new words.
- Formulate questions to determine meaning based on the narrative elements of plot, character, and setting.
- Connect, clarify, and extend ideas through classroom discussions and activities.
- Demonstrate understanding of text structure through the use of graphic organizers, outlines, and teacher modeling.
- Be able to generate inferences and interpretations based on text.
- Compare the content and organization of various selections as well as the ideas and story details from a variety of texts and themes.
- Recognize similarities and differences of varying styles of writing and points of view.
- Use comprehension strategies to enhance understanding.
- Apply background knowledge and experience to literary text.
- Apply self-monitoring and self-correcting strategies continuously to clarify understanding during reading.
- Strengthen oral reading fluency

Writing

- Use pre-writing strategies to choose a topic and help generate ideas.
- Write creatively and feel comfortable writing short stories, poetry, plays, and friendly letters through the use of the Writer's Notebook
- Develop multi-paragraph compositions that include an introduction with topic sentence, various levels of support with details, and a conclusion.
- Use available technology to design, produce, and present compositions and multimedia works.
- Revise and edit using self, peers, and teacher.
- Units of Study:
 - Paragraph Writing
 - Narrative
 - Opinion-Argument
 - Explanatory-Informational
 - Poetry

Spelling

Spelling **pretests** will be given every **Friday**. Students are expected to study their assigned list and five challenge words to study throughout the week in preparation for Thursday's **posttest**.

- If a student misses 0-3 words on the pretest he/she will be assigned the alternate list and use a contract to study their words.
- If a student misses four or more words on the pretest they will study the base list and use a packet to learn the spelling pattern.
- Spelling grades are based on posttest scores. The five challenge words will count towards your child's effort grade.

Science

Throughout the year students will have hands-on opportunities and experiences to better their understanding of science, and to promote scientific literacy and inquiry. Topics that will be explored over the course of several weeks throughout the year include:

- The Moon
- Bones and Muscles
- Simple Machines
- Habitats
- Matter

Social Studies

Units of study include:

- Maps and Globes
- Communities
- Our Government
- People Who Shape our Lives
- Immigration and Migration