

Key Skills in the Third Grade

By the end of the year, students have deepened their understanding of place value and their skills with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers. They can estimate, measure, and describe objects. In English/language arts, students know and use complex word families when reading and decode multisyllabic words. They read and understand grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text. They read drama, poetry, fiction, and nonfiction and comprehend basic plots. They progress through the stages of the writing process to achieve clear and coherent paragraphs that include a topic sentence and supporting facts and details. They recognize alliteration and onomatopoeia in a selection. In addition to their regular school reading, students in grade three make progress toward the grade four goal of reading one-half million words annually.

By the end of the year, students in grade three should be able to independently read:

The Boxcar Children, by Gertrude Chandler Warner; *Herbie Jones* (series), by Suzy Kline; *Magic Tree House* (series), by Mary Pope Osborne.

Math

Students:

- count, read, and write numbers to 10,000 and compare and order numbers using $<$, $=$, $>$
- round numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, and thousand
- memorize the multiplication table for numbers between 1 and 10
- solve multiplication problems of multidigit numbers by one-digit numbers ($3,671 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$)
- solve division problems of multidigit numbers by one-digit numbers with no remainder
- compare, add, and subtract simple fractions
- find perimeter and area of simple quadrilaterals
- recognize and use the commutative and associative properties of multiplication ($5 \times 7 = 35$ so $7 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$ and $5 \times 7 \times 3 = 105$ so $7 \times 3 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$)
- conduct probability experiments such as tossing a coin and record the outcomes.
- make decisions about how to set up problems, solve problems, and can justify their reasoning

English/Language Arts

Students:

- decode regular multisyllabic words and use sentence and word context to understand the meaning of words
- know and use word families when reading (such as -ight) to decode unfamiliar words
- use a dictionary to learn the meaning of words
- use prefixes (un-, re-, pre-, bi-, mis-, dis-) and suffixes (-er, -est, -ful) to determine the meaning of words
- read common sight words*
- read prose and poetry fluently and accurately with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression
- use titles, table of contents, chapter headings, glossary, and the index to find information
- follow multiple-step written instructions (how to assemble a product or play a board game)
- respond to who, what, when, where, and how questions and ask clarifying questions (why, how, what if)
- identify plot, setting, theme, and characters and identify the speaker or narrator in a selection
- identify rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration in poetry
- understand the purpose of a dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, and atlas
- create paragraphs with a topic sentence and supporting facts and details
- revise first drafts to improve coherence and logical progression of ideas, using an established rubric
- write brief compositions of 2 – 3 paragraphs that describe familiar objects, events, and experiences
- write personal and formal letters including the date, proper salutation, body, closing, and signature
- write legibly in cursive or joined italic, allowing margins and spacing between words
- identify and use complete declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in speaking and writing
- identify subjects, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and articles and past, present, and future verb tenses
- punctuate dates, city and state, and use commas in dates, locations, addresses, and items in a series
- alphabetize lists of words

*Ask your ES for the list of 300 most common words in the English Language