

Third Grade Curriculum

Catholic Formation

Students will:

- Learn of God's plan of salvation, from Creation to the Incarnation and Redemption, to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church with special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion and the Mass
- Study the Old Testament Covenant with God, obedience through love of God and His laws
- Continue to study the New Testament, focusing on the works and teachings of Christ's ministry on Earth
- Recognize the Old Testament stories and Jesus's parables in the New Testament teach us about God's love for us
- Develop growth in virtue (through the Honorable Character Program), recognize and celebrate certain special Feast Days, learn specific prayers
- Learn of God's mercy through Confession, Jesus in the sacrifice of the Mass, our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit and our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints

Reading

Students will:

- Continue to effectively apply a variety of reading strategies for comprehension, such as identifying author's purpose, clarifying by asking questions, categorizing information, developing a mental picture of what is read, making predictions, sequencing, retelling, making inferences, remembering critical details, synthesizing
- Focus on the development and mastery of story elements, such as characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, theme and point of view
- Study a variety of literature genres, such as fairy tales, fables, novels, short stories, biographies, poems, historical fiction and non-fiction
- Read fluently with expression
- Read several class novels
- Strengthen reading comprehension
- Memorize poetry and selected passages from famous speeches and scripture
- Determine vice and virtue depicted in the story and how this applies to daily life
- Participate in the Jr. Great Books Program to develop critical thinking, writing and interpretive reading

Critical Thinking

Students will:

- Ask questions
- Support ideas with reference to texts and or sources of information
- Understand that some questions have more than one possible answer
- Revise and improve on initial answers

Listening, Viewing and Speaking

Students will:

- Maintain sustained attention for a minimum of 35-40 minutes
- Exhibit good listening skills
- Appropriately ask and answer questions
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Use proper etiquette when speaking
- Participate in 3rd Grade Public Speaking Events: Lower School Poetry and Prose Contest

Phonics

Students will:

- Continue to reinforce the decoding skills learned in previous grades (the program works with the spelling program to ensure students receive a balanced amount of decoding and encoding practice)

Spelling

Students will:

- Correctly spell frequently used and common words
- Practice encoding; learn spelling rules and apply them through a variety of activities such as spelling games and spelling dictation

Grammar

Students will:

- Write a complete sentence with appropriate grade level spelling, grammar, punctuation
- Identify subject and predicate
- Identify nouns, verbs and adjectives
- Develop understanding of adverbs

Writing

Students will:

- Write paragraphs with topic sentences, support sentences and using appropriate grade level spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.
- Practice the writing process: pre-writing, drafting, proofreading, revising and publishing using the Institute for Excellence in Writing program
- Compose various types of writing pieces including narrative, creative, descriptive, expository, comparison and contrast, cause and effect, and report writing
- Further develop use of key word outlines to build better writing pieces

Math

Students will:

- Master basic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication (through 12) and division
- Develop and master strategies for problem solving: restate the problem, identify relevant information brainstorm approaches, identify the answer
- Develop skills needed to write a number sentence
- Master one- and two-step word problems
- Understand perfect squares, square roots and decimals
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators
- Use denominators and identify mixed numbers
- Compare quantities, order numbers, and identify place value to the hundred thousand
- Further develop multiplication skills: 2 digits x 1 digit, 2 digits x 2 digit, 3 digits by 2 digits, with and without regrouping
- Further develop division skills: 3 and 4 digits by 1 digit with quotient written as remainder
- Develop understanding of statistics and probability
- Further develop understanding of measurement and time, geometry, decimals and problem solving
- Practice math timed tests of basic facts

Science

Students will:

- Practice the scientific methods of observing, measuring, predicting, comparing and classifying
- Use hands-on investigating to illustrate concepts learned, including scientific inquiry and reasoning, the scientific method, life science (ecosystems), space, the geosphere, and physical science (force, motion, light and sound)

Social Studies

Students will:

- Further develop understanding of chronological thinking, changes over time, and calendar time
- Focus on the Earliest Americans, exploration of North America (1500s), Thirteen colonies, American Revolution (1775), Declaration of Independence (1776), U.S. Constitution (1787), Bill of Rights (1789), Lewis and Clark (1804), Westward Expansion, Native Americans, Slavery, North South Divide, Civil War (1861), Cultural regions in North America, National and local folk tales, National and local celebrations and holidays, historical figures from U.S. history

- Further develop understanding of maps and globes, keys and legends, symbols, grid system, coordinates, compass rose, cardinal/intermediate directions, hemispheres, the Equator, and poles
- Identify and use various types of maps: political, physical, climate, atlas, population
- Identify various physical land formations: boundary, cape, channel, delta, isthmus, oasis, plateau, swamp, tundra, valley
- Identify various water formations: bay, gulf, reservoir, strait
- Locate places on a map: home, school, city, state, regions, countries, continents
- Focus on early American settlements, Original Thirteen Colonies, westward movement, American Indian settlements
- Study use and care of natural resources, renewable and non-renewable

Third Grade students also attend classes in Art, Music, Physical Education and Library.

Music

The work of learning notation, reading music, fundamentals of making a sound on the recorder all come together in a more intensive study of the recorder. The Recorder is an instrument, similar to a flute in sound and made of wood or plastic. It is often used in Music Education settings. Learning and mastering this instrument is considered a preparation for learning instruments in marching bands. If time allows at the end of a year, Third Grade is exposed to the dramatic arts through games and small plays.

Library

With the advent of advanced, computer technology, the enjoyment and promotion of reading and the acquisition of research and reading skills have experienced a significant degree of change. Some of it has been very fast-paced. That said, here is the core of our developing program in the St. John Bosco Library of The Highlands School.

Your child will enjoy reading in our library program that is integrated with the well-known and praised Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Elementary students visit the Library weekly with the goal of selecting a quality book at or above their present reading level, and to check it out. In Third Grade, your child will have the option of writing their own book, and reading it aloud to their fellow classmates. Seven years ago, our very first book was on Tom Brady, *The Most Hated Player in the NFL But He Loves to Win!* The young author predicted that Brady would win three more Super Bowls before retiring. Amazing! The idea here, of course, is for the student to take ownership of his interests and scholarship.

Art

Next year in 3rd grade we will explore several different art techniques and learn about the artists that used them. For example we will create a chalk flower and learn about southwest artist Georgia O'Keefe. Throughout the year we will explore collograph printing, use of pastels, clay, wax, collage, and glue painting to create self-portraits, mosaics, surreal clay figures, etc. The year will be fun and exciting as we try new things that will give us immeasurable artistic confidence.

Physical Education

The Physical Education program that's designed for lower school students will be a program of individual and team activities that will focus on fitness, coordination, and character building. Through class activities and instructions students will be given the opportunity to learn how to stretch & warm-up, throw & catch, balance and coordination, and a variety of sports. This program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation for activity and physical fitness through cardio, aerobics, and mini-games of fitness. We focus on character building by creating an environment that can showcase sportsmanship and team work.

Aftercare Program

The Highlands School Aftercare Program provides each child with the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic through allotted homework times, trying to instill independence in problem-solving and time management while still aiding the students as necessary to the best of the staff's abilities. In addition to this work ethic, the students are encouraged to socialize not only with their classmates but with children in other grades, extending their bonds and friendships to others with similar interests and enabling them to interact with various age groups in a comfortable, friendly environment. The students are able to interact both in centers—the games and other crafts the students may play each day—and in outdoor activities from tag to soccer to football, weather permitting. The Aftercare Program has daily prayers that often allow the students to voice their own prayer intentions and thus practice praying for those in need within the community. As a whole, the Aftercare Program is dedicated to the development of the students in its care: academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.