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PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences, activities, and sports that enable them to learn about themselves and their world.

HEALTH

In health students learn that personal wellness includes physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual and environmental health. Students practice effective communication skills as they are introduced to human body systems and decision-making skills related to nutrition and drug-free lifestyles.

HOMEWORK

Ellington Public Schools defines “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside the classroom. Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis, in addition to any other homework assigned. In third grade the expected length of time for independent reading is 20-30 minutes each day, or 100-150 minutes across a week. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time each day for reading.

Third graders may also be expected to complete other independent practice assignments and long-term projects in addition to daily reading. Other independent practice assignments and work on long-term projects should not exceed an average of 10-15 minutes daily. Some students may require less or more time than that which is indicated for a grade level. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day.

TESTING

Students participate in standardized testing as required by state and federal guidelines. In third grade this would include Smarter Balanced Assessments for Literacy and Mathematics.

Curriculum Guide for Grade 3

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children’s intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.

Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program maintains a balance in the development of math concepts, basic skills and problem solving strategies. Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. Third graders will be introduced to multiplication, division, and fractions. They will use place value concepts to interpret the meaning of numbers. Students will learn to collect, analyze and interpret real-life data and explore elementary notions of probability. The *Bridges in Mathematics* program is used as a resource for mathematics instruction.

KEY THIRD GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Develop an understanding of multiplication and division;
- Fluently multiply and divide within 100;
- Develop an understanding of fractions;
- Develop an understanding of rectangular arrays and area;
- Describe and analyze two-dimensional shapes.

For more information about our curriculum, please visit our website:

www.ellingtonpublicschools.org

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our third grade language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and continues to spiral the skills students need in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced approach that supports students through reading workshop, writing workshop, word study, and small-group instruction.

READING

In third grade students will continue to read with increasing fluency and understanding as they move up the levels of text complexity. This requires lots of time for independent reading, using strong reading strategies, and instruction with texts on and just above students' just right reading levels. Our third graders are taught to transfer reading practices and reading strategies, such as word attack strategies to make sense of new and multi-syllable words, to their own independent reading.

WRITING

Third grade students will continue to develop their writing skills by using a writing process to practice different genres of writing, including narrative, opinion, and information writing. Through direct instruction in skills and strategies and frequent writing practice with regular assessment-based feedback, third grade students will learn to write clear sentences and paragraphs on a variety of topics. The study of writing is supported with grade-level mentor texts.

WORD STUDY

Students will build their vocabulary as they read a range of texts and through word study, especially the study of synonyms and antonyms of words. Spelling instruction is also provided to support students in learning word patterns, high-frequency words, and commonly misspelled words.

KEY THIRD GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Read text to find main ideas and compare the most important points and details between two books;
- Read stories and poems aloud and with fluency;
- Write using important details to develop ideas in narrative, opinion, and informational texts.

SCIENCE

Through experiments, hands-on projects, technology and media, non-fiction readings, and independent research, third grade students will develop the ability to perform simple experiments and to record observations and accurate data. Our third graders study the properties of matter, properties of rocks and minerals, adaptations for specific habitats, and conservation through reducing, reusing, and recycling. In science students apply critical thinking strategies to organize, analyze, and communicate data in order to make understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Third graders will learn to think like geographers, economists, historians, and government officials to investigate Ellington and Connecticut. Students will explore the importance of Connecticut's geographic features and natural resources. They will also understand Connecticut's history by reading and learning about Connecticut through its important historical stories.

HANDWRITING

The Zaner-Bloser handwriting program is used. Students are introduced to cursive writing and will practice short assignments in cursive.

MUSIC

The music program fosters an understanding of music and the development of musical skills through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement. Students will also learn how to play the recorder.

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.