

# Third Grade Curriculum Guide 2013-2014



**ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS**  
A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

Royal Oak Schools has a comprehensive curriculum for all third graders that includes academics, foreign language, physical education, health, music and art. Our curriculum also includes areas essential to the education of the total child. We pay close attention to the physical learning environment and the learning climate of our classrooms. We recognize the uniqueness of every child and are dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible. This guide describes Royal Oak's Curriculum for third grade students in the core academic areas of language arts, social studies, math and science.

## **The Third Grader**

Third graders are in transition from lower elementary into upper elementary. They are becoming more independent learners. Their peer group becomes an integral part of their day.

- Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways to maximize achievement.
- Our curriculum is under continuous review and revision by teachers and administrators from all buildings.
- Teachers carefully monitor the progress of all students in a variety of ways. Report cards are sent home quarterly.
- At every level students accomplish important milestones in each curricular area. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and challenging at each grade.
- This guide outlines what we expect third grade students to be able to demonstrate throughout the year in each of the four core curricular areas.

## **Language Arts**

Royal Oak's K-12 English Language Arts curriculum provides a framework for students to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. In Language Arts, students will:

- use graphic organizers and literacy logs to identify story elements for fiction selections and key concepts for informational passages.
- read a minimum of 100 minutes per week and keep an on-going record of time.
- complete pieces of writing to include in their K-12 Writing Portfolio. Each student will be required to complete expository (non-fiction), narrative (story) and persuasive writing. One writing sample will be completed using technology.
- apply authors' techniques to their writings.
- read folk tales, poetry, fables, legends, realistic fiction and biographies.
- read current event articles and identify who, what, where, why, when about the topic, and write summaries of the information.
- retell stories, compare ideas, compare texts, and reflect on readings.
- produce at least one book report per marking period.
- give oral presentations.
- analyze and interpret information given as a set of data (e.g., charts, maps, graphs).
- take a stand on an issue drawn from text and respond in the form of a persuasive poster or other visual demonstration.
- research a topic using various sources for information.
- organize and analyze research information.
- share research with a short multimedia presentation.

- evaluate communication skills using a scoring chart.
- use age-appropriate dictionary.

## **Social Studies**

Royal Oak's K-12 Social Studies Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop social understanding and civic responsibility by building four capacities in learners: disciplinary knowledge, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation. In Third grade, students will study the Michigan History. In addition, students will:

### **CIVIC PERSPECTIVE**

- describe forms of government and their roles.
- analyze current events.
- participate in a classroom service project.
- create classroom rules based on core democratic values.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

- describe, compare and explain various peoples, places and cultures.
- identify and describe the natural characteristics of environments.
- describe similarities and differences between communities.
- describe ways people interact with their environment.
- construct and utilize maps.
- place points on a map using the terms north, south, east and west.

### **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

- create a classroom timeline of major events in their lives and their community.
- summarize key events from simple biographies of figures of Royal Oak and Michigan history.

### **ECONOMICS**

- identify goods and services provided by a community.
- explain how resources affect the economy of a community.
- list ways to conserve limited resources.
- explain the economic concepts of scarcity, needs, goods, services and currency.

## **Mathematics**

The K-12 Mathematics Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop reasoning, communication, and problem-solving skills. The six strands of the math curriculum include: patterns, relationships and functions; geometry and measurement; data analysis and statistics; number sense and numeration; numerical and algebraic operations and analytical thinking; and probability and discrete mathematics. In Math, students will:

- describe and extend numerical and geometric patterns by creating tables, charts or pictures given a pattern and a rule.
- describe numerical sequences.
- use a hundreds chart to find numerical patterns.
- name, describe, compare, sort, classify, draw, and build familiar shapes.
- identify the number of corners, edges, and faces in shapes.
- classify shapes as solid or flat.
- identify lines of symmetry.
- identify missing points on a number line up to 1000.
- select appropriate measuring devices and units.
- collect, explore, read and examine data from surveys and experiments.
- organize data using pictures, tallies, labels, charts and graphs.

- interpret graphs and charts.
- read, write and count using whole numbers.
- explore basic concepts of fractions and decimals.
- add and subtract numbers up to three digits.
- build models representing addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- create fact families from sets of three numbers.
- conduct, record, and compare results of experiments in probability and chance.

## Science

The Science Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop scientific literacy by using, constructing, and reflecting on scientific knowledge, and coming to informed conclusions. Students will learn concepts and theories of the three main science areas: earth, life, and physical. In Science students will:

- develop a curiosity about the world through hands-on investigations.
- identify and define key scientific content terms using science logs.
- record, organize, analyze, and reflect on data collected to answer questions created from and about the natural and physical world.
- explain scientific findings through written and oral reporting.
- identify, define and use key scientific terms in student logs.

Topics covered in Third Grade Science include:

- Inquiry, reflection, and social implications
- Structures of Life
- Force and Motion
- Properties of Matter
- Organization of Living Things

## What Parents Can Do

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| ❖ Talk to your child about school daily.  | ❖ Acknowledge a good job when you see it with positive comments.  |
| ❖ Talk to and work with your child's teacher(s).  | ❖ Check and sign your child's planner daily.                      |
| ❖ Have your child read a variety of material daily.                                     | ❖ Look over and discuss your child's work.                        |
| ❖ Have your child practice writing at home (e.g., thank you notes, letters, and lists). | ❖ Ensure regular attendance at school.                            |
| ❖ Make math part of everyday life (e.g., money, time, fractions, and multiples).        | ❖ Promote community service and involvement in school activities. |

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