



A Parent's Guide
To the
Los Altos School District
GRADE 3
Course of Study

August 2010

Third grade instructional programs in Los Altos schools are committed to helping each child meet the academic and intellectual competencies expected at this grade level and become active, engaged learners in a classroom setting. The following summary of the instructional program provides an overview of the third grade year. The third grade program builds on skills and knowledge children have learned in preceding years. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and respect for self and others. Expectations are modified or expanded to meet a child's needs and abilities.

Curriculum standards are what all grade-level students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of a school year. Key concepts and standards of third grade education are included. If you would like a complete description of third grade standards, they can be downloaded from the [California Department of Education](#) website.

If you have questions about curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.



MATHEMATICS-----

Adopted Programs **Number Sense**

Scott Foresman enVision

Compare & order whole numbers to 10,000
Identifies place value for each digit in numbers to 10,000
Rounds numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000
Finds the sum or difference of two numbers up to 10,000
Memorizes to automaticity the multiplication table for numbers to 10
Uses the inverse relationship of multiplication & division to compute & check results
Solves simple problems involving multiplication of multidigit numbers by one-digit numbers
Adds and subtracts simple fractions
Understands that fractions & decimals are two different representations of the same concept

Algebra and Functions

Selects appropriate operational symbols to make a true expression
Solves problems involving numeric equations or inequalities
Recognizes & uses the commutative & associative properties of multiplication
Solves simple problems involving a functional relationship between two quantities
Extends & recognizes a linear pattern by its rules

Measurement & Geometry

Finds volume of solid figures with manipulatives
Finds the perimeter and area of a polygon
Identifies, describes and classifies polygons
Identifies, describes and classifies common 3-D geometric objects

Statistics, Data and Probability

Records possible outcomes for a simple event
Clearly summarizes and displays results of probability experiments



READING/ LANGUAGE ARTS-----

Adopted Programs	Houghton Mifflin Medallions Edition, Reading
Reading	
Decoding:	Decodes unfamiliar and multi-syllabic words
Word Recognition:	Reads grade level narrative text aloud and fluently
Vocabulary:	Uses context clues to learn vocabulary Uses prefixes and suffixes to determine word meaning
Structural Features:	Uses glossaries and indexes to locate information
Comprehension:	Understands and analyzes grade-level texts Uses prior knowledge and makes predictions
Analysis:	Distinguishes common forms of literature
Writing	
Organization:	Creates a paragraph with a topic sentence and details
Research:	Understands the structure of various reference materials Revises written work
Applications:	Writes detailed narratives with a developed plot Writes personal and formal letters
Penmanship:	Writes legibly in cursive or joined italic
Sentence Structure:	Uses complete and correct sentences
Grammar:	Identifies and uses subjects and predicates
Punctuation:	Uses ending punctuation and commas
Capitalization:	Capitalizes proper nouns
Spelling:	Spells one-syllable words Arranges words in alphabetical order
Listening and Speaking	
Comprehension:	Listens attentively and responds appropriately
Organization & Delivery:	Able to develop and communicate ideas
Analysis:	Distinguishes between fact and opinion
Applications:	Presents brief narratives effectively

SCIENCE-----

Adopted Programs
FOSS, [Matter and Energy](#) (Physical), [Structures of Life](#) (Life), [Sun, Moon](#) and [Stars](#) (Earth)

Scientific Process Skills

Predicts the outcomes of simple investigations
Collects and analyzes data to develop a logical conclusion

Life, Physical or Earth Sciences

Energy & Matter: Understands the forms and sources of energy
Knows the forms and make-up of matter
Understands general concepts of light

Adaptations: Knows the role of adaptations in an organism's life
Knows that living things cause changes in the environment

Astronomy: Knows the lunar cycle
Knows objects in the sky move in predictable patterns

SOCIAL STUDIES-----

Adopted Programs [Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, California Communities](#)
Local History: Los Altos & Ohlones

Geography: Uses basic map reading skills correctly
Identifies the continents and ocean of the world

Community: Knows local history

PHYSICAL EDUCATION-----

Children receive daily physical education, concentrating on development of eye-hand coordination, fine and gross motor skills, and ability to cooperate/participate in organized games. A P.E. specialist works with the children every week, and all children also participate in the SPARK program.

FINE and PERFORMING ARTS-----

All primary students receive instruction in art and music on a regular basis. The District provides trained volunteers through an Art Docent program. Many schools contract with CSMA or Starting Arts for additional programs.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS-----

For children who qualify, the District offers programs for English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented, Speech and Language Development, Special Education, Psychological Testing and Counseling, and Home Teaching.