



STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Curriculum Overview Grade 3

Course Description:

Reading continues to be a priority in third grade with exposure to a variety of literature, including classical, contemporary, and nonfiction. The student will use effective communication skills, reading comprehension strategies, and the writing process in all subjects. Mathematics instruction will emphasize problem solving, communicating, reasoning, making connections and using representations. Scientific investigations are conducted and the use of information to draw conclusions is emphasized. In history and social studies, the student will study the historic, geographic, economic, and legal foundations of America. Health education emphasizes personal responsibility, communication skills and home safety. Physical education will offer students the opportunity to develop efficient motor skills used in sports and fitness activities. In art and music students will begin to experiment with new materials and explore creative solutions to assignments.

Essential Knowledge and Skills/Processes:

READING/ENGLISH:

- Use effective communication skills in group activities
- Listen attentively, ask and respond to questions, explain what has been learned
- Use correct grammar and contextually appropriate and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas
- Increase listening and speaking vocabularies
- Present brief oral reports using visual media
- Demonstrate knowledge of regular and irregular vowel patterns, prefixes and suffixes to decode and comprehend multisyllabic words
- Apply meaning clues, language structure and phonetic strategies to expand vocabulary
- Demonstrate comprehension of vocabulary and information from a variety of print and electronic resources including: glossaries, dictionaries, thesaurus, table of contents, indices, charts, encyclopedias, and online reference materials
- Use reading strategies such as predicting, questioning, making connections with prior knowledge, comparing, contrasting, drawing conclusions, and summarizing to demonstrate comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry
- Identify author's purpose, main idea, supporting details, and answer explicit and implicit questions from a given text
- Develop ability to read independently for an extended period of time, demonstrating comprehension by answering questions and participating in discussions about the text
- Read fluently with expression and accuracy
- Write legibly in cursive.
- Identify sentence types including: declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative.
- Write descriptive paragraphs, stories, letters, and explanations focusing on developing a plan, central idea and grouping related ideas for clarity across all content areas.
- Write a short report: construct questions about a topic, identify appropriate research resources (including print, online, media), collect and organize information to use in writing the report
- Edit writing for spelling, capitalization, and punctuation, to include apostrophes and singular possessives
- Revise and edit writing for word usage and sentence fluency
- Use available technology for reading and writing

MATHEMATICS:

- Use efficient, flexible strategies to solve problems
- Communicate mathematical understanding
- Understand and use numbers as organized groups of tens, hundreds and thousands
- Recognize/use inverse relationships between addition/subtraction and multiplication/division
- Identify, read, write, and compare whole numbers and fractions
- Estimate solutions to solve single and multi-step problems involving addition and subtraction problems with numbers through 9,999
- Recall multiplication facts through the twelves table and the corresponding division facts
- Represent multiplication/division using area, set, and number line models, and create/solve involving multiplication of two whole numbers
- Add and subtract fractions having like denominators
- Estimate and use appropriate tools to measure length, perimeter, area, weight, liquid volume, time, temperature and money
- Determine the perimeter of a polygon and the area of a given surface
- Identify, describe, compare, and contrast characteristics of plane and solid geometric figures
- Identify and draw points, line segments, rays, angles and lines
- Identify and describe congruent and non-congruent plane figures
- Collect, organize, represent, and analyze data
- Investigate and describe the concept of probability
- Recognize and describe a variety of patterns
- Investigate and identify examples of the identity and commutative properties for addition and multiplication

SCIENCE:

- Plan and conduct investigations where data is gathered, hypotheses are formed, and conclusions are made
- Make measurements in centimeters, grams, liters, milliliters, degrees Celsius, and minutes; chart/graph data
- Investigate simple machines (including the lever, screw, pulley, wheel and axle, inclined plane, and wedge) and compound machines

- Describe objects by their physical properties and observe component parts with magnification
- Study the life needs and behaviors of animals including food, shelter, defense, caring for young, instinct and learned behavior
- Investigate relationships involving food chains and components of land and water environments, and the interdependency of organisms
- Investigate properties and importance of soil
- Observe cycles and patterns in nature including seasons, plant and animal life cycles, the water cycle and phases of the moon
- Investigate types and sources of energy
- Observe the impact of natural events and human impact on the environment

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- Define and describe civilizations in Ancient Greece and Rome
- Become familiar with the West African Empire of Mali
- Describe the discovery of the Americas by Columbus and other European explorers
- Identify the first permanent Spanish, English and French settlements in North America
- Become familiar with different types, parts and uses of maps, tables, graphs, and charts. Use letter-number grid system
- Identify longitude, latitude, equator, prime meridian, Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western hemispheres and the ancient civilizations and American colonies being studied
- Explain and describe in simple terms various economic concepts, such as human, capital and natural resources; opportunity cost and economic specialization
- Explain the relationship between taxation and government services
- Identify good citizens from our past and explain their contributions
- Have an understanding of civic responsibility including rights, responsibilities, rules, and laws

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH:

- Identify the relationships among nutrition, fitness, and health
- Recognize skills in handling bullying and other aggressive situations
- Understand the role of self-responsibility for preventing personal harm.
- Recognize the value of setting realistic health-related goals

- Develop a plan of action utilizing the steps of the problem solving process
- Describe communicable diseases and how germs are spread
- Describe non-communicable diseases and healthy behaviors that can help in preventing these diseases.
- Recognize how illegal drugs, tobacco, and alcohol can harm the body and the importance of developing refusal skills
- Describe the main functions of the muscular system.
- Describe how a healthy lifestyle benefits the muscular system
- Perform effective and efficient movement skills including: soccer skills, basketball dribble, chest pass, underhand throw, striking (golf putter, bat, paddle, racket), fitness components, and long jump rope
- Demonstrate respect for others and good sportsmanship

FINE ARTS:

- Observe details
- Draw and paint from nature, people, and events
- Construct three dimensional form from age appropriate materials
- Practice safety procedures
- Experiment and identify a variety of materials
- Use detail in artwork
- Discover a variety of source ideas
- Creatively integrate mistakes into artwork
- Compare and contrast art of various cultures
- Use maps and globes to locate studied cultures
- Recognize distinct characteristics of ancient Rome and Greece

MUSIC:

- Sing a song on pitch and follow the contour of a melody
- Read and perform simple rhythm and syncopated rhythm patterns
- Perform partner songs, simple rounds, and vocal ostinati
- Identify music in a round, in rondo form, and using Da Capo al Fine
- Distinguish between unison and harmony
- Recognize and identify the staff, treble clef, meter signature, bar lines, measures, the musical alphabet, and names of the lines and spaces of the treble clef
- Recognize and apply tempo markings, dynamic markings, the accent mark and fermata
- Expand knowledge of orchestra instruments
- Study and perform multi-cultural dances
- Listen to and recognize different perspectives of music from different cultures

Resources:

Resources concerning the Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools and more can be found at the Virginia Department of Education website: <http://www.doe.virginia.gov> Helpful resources at this site include subject and grade level Standards of Learning, Curriculum Frameworks, and Scope and Sequence documents.

Additional resources are listed below:

Reading

- <http://www.readaloudva.org/>
- <http://www.ed.gov/parents/read/resources/readingtips/>
- <http://www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/>

Math

- The Mathematics Leadership Team is made up of a Math Lead Teacher or a Math Specialist from each school, the Elementary Mathematics Coordinator, and the Mathematics Supervisor.