



Welcome to the 3rd Grade Open House

*Tarpon Springs
Fundamental ES*

Guidelines for Success

T - THINK RESPONSIBILITY

S - SHOW RESPECT

F - FOCUS ON LEARNING

E - EXPECT THE BEST

S - SAFETY FIRST



Meet the team



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The BIG leap from 2nd Grade to 3rd Grade

- “Reading to learn” more than “learning to read”
- Increase reading and writing stamina
- More abstract thinking in math requires a foundation of basic addition/subtraction fact mastery and skip-counting fluency
- Expected to use more self control and follow directions
- Be able to stay on task independently and cooperate with others in small groups to accomplish tasks

3rd Grade Academic Milestones

1. **Reading:** By third grade, most kids can read fluently and are starting to comprehend more complex texts.
2. **Math:** Third graders are using more abstract thinking in math. They are introduced to multiplication and division and are diving deeper into understanding fractions and geometry.
3. **Writing:** At this stage, third graders are using complete sentences and paragraphs with proper spelling, grammar and punctuation. They begin learning cursive handwriting and keyboarding.

3rd Grade Social Milestones

1. **Building friendships:** At this age, children start to form deeper friendships and understand the importance of being a good friend.
2. **Resolving conflict:** As their social skills develop, third graders may encounter conflicts with friends and learn how to resolve them through communication and compromise.
3. **Empathy:** Third graders are becoming more aware of others' feelings and perspectives, and can show empathy toward their peers.

Behavior Management



- Class rules based on TSFES Guidelines for Success
- Positive reinforcement, redirection and natural consequences
- Restorative Practices for resolving conflict
- Circles to build relationships & problem solve
- Paw system for individuals to earn rewards & shop at school store
- Visit to Principal (positive more than negative)
- Happy Face/Marble Jar for whole class to earn class rewards
- Written warnings for misbehavior that continues after other strategies are employed
- Levels of Engagement





3rd Grade Curriculum

Our curriculum follow the Pinellas County School Board expectations which reflect the Grade 3 Florida B.E.S.T. Standards:

ELA (English Language Arts)

Cursive/Typing

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies



Daily Schedule



8:05-9:00 Math

9:00-9:45 Specials

9:45-10:10 Math

10:10-10:40 Reading Intervention

10:40-11:25 Science

11:25-11:45 Recess

11:45-12:15 Lunch

12:15-1:45 ELA Core

1:45- 2:15 Extra ELA



ELA

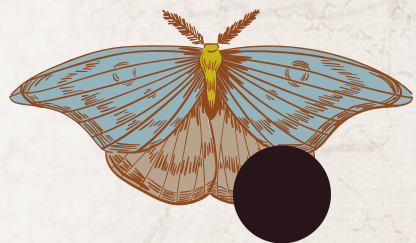
- English Language Arts Core is 120 minutes comprised of word study, reading, writing, and handwriting.
- An additional instruction/intervention/enrichment time of 30 minutes occurs daily.
- Curriculum consists of informational(nonfiction), literary (fiction), and poetry texts. Standards focus on skills such as identifying character changes, theme, text structure, text features, main idea, author's purpose, figurative language, and comparing two texts.,

ELA

- Writing styles includes narrative, expository, and opinion organized in 3-5 paragraphs
- Skills taught include using transition words, details and elaboration and dialogue
- Students go through the writing process of brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising and editing
- Cursive handwriting and keyboarding are also introduced in third grade.

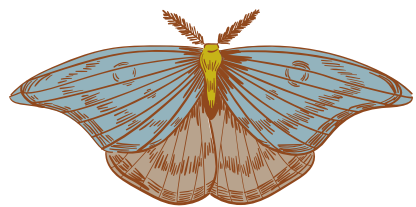
3rd Grade Promotion Requirements

- The portfolio is a "good cause" promotion option for students who score a Level 1 on the spring FAST assessment.
- The portfolio is an organized collection of evidence of the student's mastery of the B.E.S.T. English Language Arts Standards that are assessed by the grade 3 statewide, standardized English Language Arts assessment.
- For each benchmark, there will be at least eight (8) items assessed and the student must demonstrate 70% percent mastery for all items assessed per benchmark.
- As the year progresses, you will receive a sign and return report after each portfolio assessment communicating your child's progress toward meeting the 70% mastery of EACH of the 13 benchmarks.



3rd Grade Promotion Requirements

See the letter for more details about the 5 alternative ways your child can meet the requirement to be promoted to 4th.



Third Grade Good Cause Letter – 2025-2026

Dear Parents or Guardians of Third Graders,

As you may know, the Florida State Legislature passed a law that affects the promotion/retention of students in third grade. In the spring, your child will be taking the state assessment, **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking** (FAST).

If your child scores at a Level 2 or above on the FAST Reading Assessment (Progress Monitoring Cycle 3 in May), he or she is eligible to be promoted. If a student does not score at the designated level on the PM3 FAST assessment, he or she is considered to have a substantial problem in reading and cannot be promoted to the fourth grade on a regular promotion. However, the score on the FAST assessment is not the sole determiner for promotion. If a child meets one of the following "good cause" exemptions identified by the state, the child may be considered for promotion.

1. Students who demonstrate through a student portfolio that they are reading at least at the designated passing level on the FAST assessment. Every third grader in Pinellas County will have a portfolio. The contents of the Pinellas County portfolio were chosen by a committee consisting of teachers from a variety of schools in the district.

2. Limited English proficient students who have had less than 2 years of instruction in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program.

*****The **good cause exemption for ESOL students** is defined as: Limited English proficient students who have had less than 2 years of instruction in an *English for Speakers of Other Languages* program. **Less than 2 years of ESOL services starts from the "Date Entered U.S. School" (DEUSS).** This state-reported data element can be found in FOCUS on the ELL tab. **Do not use the Date of Entry into ESOL as a definition of 2 years of ESOL instruction.** *****

3. Students with disabilities whose Individual Education Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate (i.e., special diploma).

4. Students who score at or above the 50th percentile on Istation after the PM3 FAST assessment.

5. Students with disabilities who participate in the FAST assessment and who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 plan that indicates that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than 2 years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3.

7. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading for 2 or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2, or grade 3 for a total of 2 years. Students may not spend more than two years in third grade.

The school principal will recommend any good cause exemptions, based on evaluative data, to the district superintendent who will accept or reject the recommendations.

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



3rd Grade Reading Portfolio



Students are given the portfolio common assessments for good cause promotion to 4th grade. According to the State Board of Education, to be accepted as meeting the portfolio option, a student's portfolio must include at least 8 items assessed per benchmark and the student must demonstrate 70% mastery for each of 13 benchmarks.



Reading Portfolio Parent Communication

After each portfolio assessment, a letter will be sent home with your child's results. This letter is a sign & return document.



Grade 3 Benchmark Aligned Portfolio

This form will be printed from EDS and sent home after each portfolio administration.

Grade 3 Benchmark Aligned Portfolio

Student	Teacher	School		
13 Assessed Benchmarks: For each benchmark, the student must demonstrate 70% mastery on 10 items per benchmark.		Benchmark is still being assessed	YES, Criteria Met 70% mastery or higher on 10 items	No, Criteria Not Met Did not demonstrate 70% mastery on 10 items
ELA.3.R.1.1 - Explain how one or more characters develop throughout the plot in a literary text.				
ELA.3.R.1.2 - Explain a theme and how it develops, using details in a literary text.				
ELA.3.R.1.3 - Explain different character's perspective in literary text.				
ELA.3.R.1.4 - Identify types of poems: free verse, rhymed verse, haiku, and limerick.				
ELA.3.R.2.1 - Explain how text features contribute to meaning and identify the text structure of chronology, comparison, and cause-effect in text.				
ELA.3.R.2.2 - Identify the central idea and explain how relevant details support that idea in a text.				
ELA.3.R.2.3 - Explain the development of an author's purpose in an informational text.				
ELA.3.R.2.4 - Identify an author's claim and explain how an author uses evidence to support the claim.				
ELA.3.R.3.1 - Identify and explain metaphors, personification and hyperbole in text(s).				
ELA.3.R.3.2 - Summarize a text to enhance comprehension. Include plot and theme for literary text. Use the central idea and relevant details from an informational text.				
ELA.3.R.3.3 - Compare and contrast how two authors present information on the same topic or them.				
ELA.3.V.1.2 - Identify and apply knowledge of common Greek and Latin roots, base words, and affixes to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words in grade level text.				
ELA.3.V.1.3 - Use context clue, figurative language, word relationships, reference materials and/or background knowledge to determine the meaning of multiple-meaning and unknown words and phrases, appropriate to grade level.				





2025-26 Grade 3 Portfolio Assessment Dates

Date	Portfolio Assessment Collection
8/25-9/5 9 items	Portfolio 1: A1 (My Trip to the Dentist)
9/8-9/12 10 items	Portfolio 2: A2 *communicate progress using the PM Comparative Report
1/12-1/23 10 items	Portfolio 3 Module E1 (Fitting In). Administer to MOST students in whole group. For students who scored a Level 1 on BOTH PM1 and PM2, administer one-to-one.
2/9-3/6 33 items	Portfolio 4: Administer to all students. Consider administering in small group for students who scored a Level 1 on BOTH PM1 and PM2. The assessment can occur across 2 days for students in small group. This can be done during the intervention block.
4/6-4/24 37 items	Portfolio 5: Administer to all students. Consider administering in small group for students who scored a Level 1 on BOTH PM1 and PM2. The assessment can occur across 2 days for students in small group. This can be done during the intervention block.
Following the window	FAST PM3 – communicate progress using a parent letter. Any student who scored a Level 2 or above meets the criteria for promotion. For students who scored at a Level 1, continue the portfolio process.
May (after PM3) 31 items	Portfolio 6: This is ONLY administered to students who scored a Level 1 on PM 3. It is recommended that the assessment is administered in small group during the intervention block so as not to interrupt core instruction. The assessment can occur across 2 days.

Mathematics

- Math is a 75 minute block made up of number routines, whole group lesson, small groups, math games, Dash Robots math/coding challenges and Dreambox.
- Having a growth mindset and showing your work are necessary for success!
- Students gain a conceptual understanding of multiplication & division (not memorization). They will solve problems using all four operations, dig deeper into fractions, geometry, and measurement.





Science

- Third Grade Curriculum includes Earth Science, Physical Science and Life Science
- Hands-on learning, experiments and investigations
- STEM activities
- 3rd graders will complete their first independent science project using scientific process



Social Studies & Health

- More Health Presentations on Firearm Safety and Nutrition
- 70 minutes of Social Studies a week (Civics, History, Geography, Economics)
- 20 minutes of Recess Daily.



Important Assessment Dates

F.A.S.T. Testing

	PM1	PM2	PM3
English Language Arts/Reading Mathematics Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST)	Sept 3-26 Progress Monitoring	Dec 1-19 Make-ups thru Jan 23 Progress Monitoring	May 1-28 State Assessment
	Portfolio Assessments for Grade 3 Promotion		
English Language Arts/Reading <i>Grade 3 only</i>	#1: Aug 25-Sept 5 #2: Sept 9-12 #3- Jan 12-23		#4: Feb9-March 6 #5: April 6-24 #6: Post-FAST PM3, Level 1 only

Important Assessment Dates

Math

3 rd Grade	
Topic	Target Date
A	9/5
B	9/30
C	10/17
Benchmark 1	
10/10 – 10/17	
D	10/31
E	11/21
F	12/19
Benchmark 2	
12/12 – 12/19	
G	1/23
H	2/6
I	2/24
Benchmark 3	
2/17 – 2/24	
J	3/10
K	4/6
L	4/20
M	5/1
Summative	

Science

THIRD GRADE	
Earth Science Formative Check	Window
	10/16-20
	Target
	10/16
Physical Science Formative Check	Window
	1/8-12
	Target
	1/8
Life Science Formative Check	Window
	4/29-5/1
	Target
	4/30

ELA

Module	Date Range	# of Days	Testing Window
A	August 11 – September 12	24	9/8-9/12
B	Sept 15 – Oct 10 (End of Q1)	19	10/6-10/10
C	Oct 14 – Nov 7	19	11/3-11/7
D	Nov 10 – Dec 19 (End of Q2)	25	12/15-12/19
E	Jan 5 – Feb 6	24	2/2-2/6
F	Feb 9 – Mar 13 (End of Q3)	23	3/9-3/13
G	Mar 23 – Apr 24	24	4/20-4/24
H	Apr 28 – May 28 (End of Q4)	22	5/26-5/28



Homework



- Third graders write down homework in their planner. As an additional support, homework is posted in the weekly parent newsletter.
- Each homework item must be signed, as well as the planner--please review for completeness, accuracy and quality before signing.
- 30 minutes of Amira & 10 Dreambox lessons are due by Friday of each week. Part is done at school and part as homework.



Homework cont.

- If your child required a lot of help on math hw or didn't understand a particular problem(s), indicate that at the top of the page and circle the difficult problems so we can review the next day.
- First semester, reading logs require 20 minutes of reading in just right books and a written response (1-2 complete sentences edited for spelling & punctuation). Reading requirements will increase in the 2nd semester.
- A homework warning is not a homework pass--students are required to turn in missing homework the next day to avoid another warning as part of Fundamental policy.

Grading Scale

90%- 100% A

80%- 89% B

70%- 79% C

60%- 69% D

50%- 0% F

- Grades will be based on assessments, classwork, participation, quizzes, individual and group work.
- Check FOCUS regularly to keep up with your child's grades.
- Please don't ask for extra credit! Extra credit opportunities will be communicated each quarter in class newsletter/email.

Student Laptops

- One-to-one laptop in the classroom; chargers are left at home
- Laptop may come home on Thursday night Amira and Dreambox goals.
- Laptops must come back the next day fully charged (chargers were sent home)
- The student is responsible for the condition of the laptop
- Laptops are to be used only for school programs on Clever as assigned by the teacher



Computer-based Resources

Use *Clever* to Access...

- Dreambox - 10 lessons/weekly
- Amira - 30 min. weekly
- Xtra Math - math facts
- Readworks
- MyOn
- Teacher page
- Focus Grades
- McGraw Hill Math Textbook



Staying connected!

- 3 mandatory parent teacher conferences
- READ 3rd Grade newsletter every Friday!
- Friday Folders (green- Moran; orange-Shontz)
 - Student papers graded D or F must be signed and returned (please review with your child)
 - Use left/right system
 - Sign & return every Monday
- Email your teacher on Focus
- Use planner



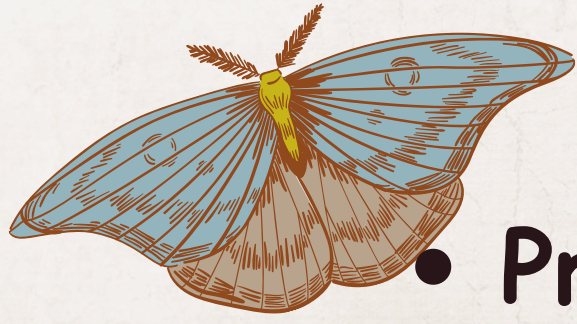


Supporting your 3rd grader

- **Encourage independence and start transferring responsibility while staying involved:** Give your child opportunities to take ownership of their education and complete tasks on their own with your guidance as needed.
- **Foster a love for reading:** Read with them and let them see YOU read. Ask them questions about their reading every night (see handout). Please be TRUE to the reading log and make sure they are in reading 20 minutes or more in “just right” books!
- **Provide a structured routine:** Establish consistent daily routines for getting ready for school, doing homework in a quiet space, and getting to bed early. Ensure time for physical activity and limit screen use.



Supporting your 3rd graders



- **Practice problem-solving:** Engage in activities that require critical thinking and problem-solving skills, like puzzles or board games. Use real world problems and examples in their daily life whenever possible.
- **Be patient and supportive:** Every child develops at their own pace. Encourage your child's growth, unique gifts, and celebrate their achievements. Create a safe environment for them to express their feelings.
- **Encourage more social interactions and less screentime:** Provide opportunities for your child to interact with peers through extracurricular activities or playdates. Limit screentime.



Volunteers

Our secret to success is our many committed volunteers!

There's an immediate need for male mentors at our school!

We will send out a sign-up genius shortly to sign up for specific class volunteer opportunities, including field trips.



Family + Teachers = Student Success & Confidence

Please let us know if you are having trouble accessing any e-mails and/or attachments.



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Make sure your email addresses are updated on FOCUS. Email us through FOCUS throughout the year with any questions or concerns.



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Thank you

Please use the QR code to sign in
for PTA attendance

August PTA 2024

