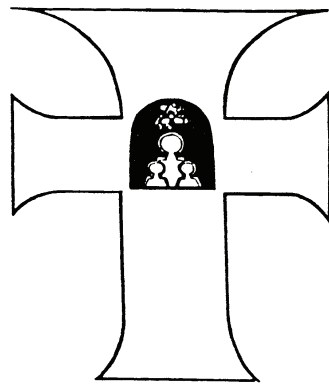


Noonan Elementary Academy



Third Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Third Grade Curriculum

Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. A comprehensive Catholic program combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Our Life with Jesus, published by Ignatius Press

Aim

To show the third grade students that they belong to God's chosen people and that the child's family is an important part of God's family, the Church. In addition, to encourage prayer and love for God's law.

Theme

God's plan of salvation from creation to the Incarnation and Redemption to the birth of the Church at Pentecost and our life in the Church. Special emphasis on the importance of Confession, Communion, and the Mass.

Sequence

Ch. 1-7: The Old Testament covenant with God.

Ch. 8-14: Obedience through the love of God and his laws. In Confession, we meet Jesus in His mercy.

Ch. 15-25: The life of Jesus and Jesus in the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Ch. 26-30: Our part in the Church born of the Holy Spirit; our relationship with Mary and the Communion of Saints.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing phonetic awareness
- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing

Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs, when it deviates from a controlled limited vocabulary and uses authentic literature.

Features of this series

Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.

- † Science and social studies themes
- † A moral or virtue value in every story
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Fiction

Folktales

Nonfiction

Riddles

Character tales

Plays

Art

Reading/Language Arts continued

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Supplemental Readers

- † American Cardinal Readers
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young Children
- † Lives of the Saints for Children

Themes of the third grade text are:

- † Music and Musicians
- † Ancient Civilization
- † Taking a Stand
- † Perseverance
- † Ecology
- † Value

Writing

Third graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the use of appropriate grammar and sequence. Students will learn to write:

- † Narrative, expository, and persuasive essays
- † Use vivid language and sensory images
- † Journals
- † News articles
- † Poetry
- † Book reports
- † Friendly letters
- † Daily grammar/language activities

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Voyages in English, published by Loyola Press. The exercises in the English workbook provides the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the third grade:

- † Possessive pronouns
- † Types of adverbs
- † Demonstrative pronominal
- † Compound subject
- † Compound predicate
- † Combining sentences
- † Diagramming simple sentences
- † Abbreviations
- † Direct quotations

Listening/Speaking

The Loyola Press series Voyages in English incorporates listening, speaking, and writing as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Use enriched vocabulary
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions for their own pleasures

Handwriting

Legible cursive handwriting will be developed through daily practice using the Zaner Bloser Handwriting Program.

Spelling

Spelling skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program. Spelling skills are also taught using spelling rules and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Everyday Spelling, published by Scott Foresman.

Vocabulary

Third grade students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

Analogies

Primary Analogies groups analogous relationships into five categories: descriptive, comparative, categorical, serial, and causal, with three levels of difficulty within each category. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory.

Math

Saxon's math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math. The

Math continued

program is based upon incremental development and continual review. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Students will:

- † Compare and order numbers
- † Identify ordinal position to twentieth
- † Identify and complete patterns
- † Place value
- † Solve problems-routine and non-routine
- † Master all basic addition and subtraction, multiplication, and division facts
- † Add and subtract fractions
- † Measure to the nearest quarter inch
- † Tell time to the minute
- † Make change for a dollar
- † Graph ordered pairs on a coordinate
- † Create, read, and write observations from graphs
- † Venn diagrams and line graphs

Science

The Scott Foresman Series provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Children are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis:

The units taught are:

Life Science

- † Plant structure and function
- † Animal structure and functions
- † Energy and ecosystems
- † Surviving in an environment

Physical Science

- † Measuring matter

Science continued

- † Force and motion
- † Electricity and magnetism
- † Light and sound

Earth Science

- † Measuring weather
- † Make up of the earth
- † Exploring oceans
- † Movement of the solar system

Human Body

- † The digestive, circulatory, and nervous systems

Social Studies

Houghton-Mifflin prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The third grade text, Explore Our Land, covers themes that focus on:

- † The American land
- † A nation of many people
- † The northeast
- † The south
- † The midwest
- † The west
- † The world

A comprehensive map skills program from National Geographic called Map Essentials covers map skills. Units covered in third grade

- † Aerial maps
- † Globes and maps
- † Compass

Social Studies continued

- † Hemisphere
- † Mapping landforms
- † Community maps
- † Inset maps
- † Agricultural product maps
- † Mapping a story

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Disease and injury prevention

Library/Computers

These skills are introduced in the library/media center and computer lab for the integration into the curriculum to help children learn how to research and process information.

Specials

Physical Education

Third grade students learn to move their body through space with greater speed, agility, and accuracy. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will engage in activities such as:

- † Locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, jumping, throwing, and catching
- † Maintain personal fitness

Physical Education continued

- † Balancing, tumbling, and climbing
- † Following more complex patterns of movement in games

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists.

Students will:

- † Learn about the artists and their styles
- † Express their individually through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works
- † Use a variety of media and tools
- † Show an awareness of size, color, and texture within a composition

Music

Third graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Read musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguish elements of music
- † Interpret musical compositions

Spanish

Elementary Spanish is an award-winning program for grades 1-8 from Northern Arizona University. Thematic units organize the curriculum. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Reports Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance to second graders. Use lots of praise and positive reinforcement. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage, or prohibit, T.V. on school nights
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for 3rd graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

