

A Guide to Standards-Based Instruction for Parents & Guardians



This guide provides a family-friendly overview of what your child will learn by the end of 3rd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

**3rd
GRADE**

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success after high school. The standards provide an important first step — establish a clear, consistent roadmap for what every student should know and be able to do in Math and English language arts from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Key Ideas & Details	Craft & Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students provide details from the text when responding to questions.</i>• <i>Students summarize stories and determine a theme.</i>• <i>Students identify the main idea of nonfiction text and explain how the details support it.</i>• <i>Students describe characters, setting, and events in depth with details from the text.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students determine the meaning of words as they are used in a text.</i>• <i>Students explain the differences between stories, dramas, poems, etc.</i>• <i>Students describe text structures.</i>• <i>Students compare and contrast different points of view.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students explain how visuals are used to contribute to understanding.</i>• <i>Students describe how authors use evidence to support points in a text.</i>• <i>Students compare and contrast texts with similar themes.</i>• <i>Students integrate information from two texts on the same topic.</i>

Talking to your child's teacher

When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 3rd grade, these include:

- ★ Reading grade-level books, stories, poems, and articles fluently
- ★ Writing and speaking well, following rules of punctuation and grammar
- ★ Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- ★ Building a foundation of knowledge through reading and listening to books in history/social studies, science, and other subjects

Mathematics

Operations & Algebraic Thinking	Number & Operations in Base Ten	Number & Operations - Fractions	Measurement & Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-step word problems</i>• <i>Students determine factor pairs for numbers 1-100.</i>• <i>Students recognize and can explain number patterns.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students round multi-digit numbers to any place.</i>• <i>Students add and subtract multi-digit numbers fluently.</i>• <i>Students use models and strategies to multiply two 2-digit numbers.</i>• <i>Students multiply and divide up to four-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students understand equivalent fractions.</i>• <i>Students add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.</i>• <i>Students multiply fractions by whole numbers.</i>• <i>Students understand the relationship between decimals and fractions.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students solve problems involving measurement.</i>• <i>Students represent data through line plots.</i>• <i>Students understand the concepts of angle measurement.</i>• <i>Students measure angles in whole-number degrees.</i>

Geometry

- *Students draw and identify lines and angles.*
- *Students identify lines of symmetry for figures.*

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 3rd grade, these include:

- ★ **Multiplication and division**
- ★ **Fractions**

Talking to your child's teacher

Helping Your Child at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to read and/or study, and carve out time every day for your child to concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 minutes or so while he or she reads or to ask them what they are learning about in class. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Make reading for fun a part of your child's daily routine.
- Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it.
- Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation

Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 3rd grade examples might include:

- Notice those everyday occasions when you find yourself using your times tables (determining how many days there are in four weeks). Ask your child for the answer.
- Involve your child when you use division to "work backward" in the times tables (determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party).