

Third Grade Course Description

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Heather Verheek

Content Goals

Language Arts:

- Core Knowledge Skills Readers, Junior Great Books, chapter books, reading response journals, writer's workshop, Voyages grammar and writing workbook, Word Voyages,
- Review and reinforce phonics and fluency
 - Increase word knowledge and vocabulary
 - Utilize proper usage of grammar mechanics in writing
 - Participate in the steps of writer's workshop that include: prewriting, editing, proofreading, and publishing
 - Write in a variety of genres including: narrative, expository, poetry, descriptive, and friendly letters
 - Produce written work with a beginning, middle, and end

Math

- Math in Focus math program materials, manipulatives, enrichment activities
- Review and reinforce skills in addition and subtraction (Bar Models)
 - Multiplication and Division (Bar Models)
 - Develop problem-solving strategies
 - Metric Length, Mass, & Volume
 - Bar Graphs & Line Plots
 - Fractions
 - Customary Length, Weight, and Capacity
 - Time and Temperature
 - Geometry (Angles, lines, two-dimensional shapes, area, & perimeter)
 - Problem Solving

Vermont Studies

- Vermont history books, maps, teacher made activities
- Geography and agriculture
 - Vermont's first people
 - Early explorers and settlers
 - Vermont during the Revolutionary War
 - Statehood
 - Life in Vermont in the past and present

Geography

- Maps, globes, National Geographic materials
- Review and reinforce skills with maps, atlases, and globes
 - Learn new geographic terms
 - States and capitals
 - Canadian provinces
 - Major rivers of the world
 - Geography of the Mediterranean region
 - Thirteen colonies by region

Science

- Core Knowledge materials, projects, enrichment activities, and reference books
- Develop familiarity with the information in the following units:
 1. Animal Classification
 2. The Human Body: Ear, Eye, Nervous System, Skeletal and Muscular System
 3. Light and optics
 4. Sound
 5. Ecology
 6. Astronomy
 7. Science Biographies

- Participate actively in class discussion

History

Core Knowledge Materials, Pearson Education textbook, teacher made materials

- Spatial sense (Working with Maps, Globes, and Other Geographic Tools)
- Canada
- Important Rivers of the World
- Ancient Rome
- The Vikings
- Early Exploration of North America
- The Earliest Americans
- The Thirteen Colonies

Handwriting

D'Nealian Teacher-made materials

- Demonstrate ability to write in cursive
- Comply with standards of handwriting neatness
- Review and reinforce each letter of the alphabet in cursive

Core Virtues

Program materials, storytelling, and picture books

- Comprehend basic virtues taught through stories
- Connect lessons to personal experiences
- Discussion of high quality literature, modeling, and self-reflection

Expectations for Students

Strong Minds

- learn how to keep desk, homework binder, and other materials organized
- develop a tolerance for constructive feedback from teachers and classmates
- learn how to persevere when facing academic challenges

Kind Hearts

- treat others with respect and kindness
- begin to move beyond egocentric concerns
- learn to self-monitor behavior

Homework Requirements

- 35-45 minutes Monday through Thursday
- Reading goal of 20 minutes per night each week
- Math homework will be assigned Monday – Thursday
- Spelling / Vocabulary will be assigned Monday -Thursday
- Spelling assessments will be on Fridays

Contacting the Teacher

1. By phone at school (603) 795-3111 ext.109
2. By e-mail heather.verheeck@crossroadsacademy.org

