

Katonah-Lewisboro School District

Curriculum Guide

Third Grade

2023-2024



THIRD GRADE CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The district curriculum is based on the current [New York State Learning Standards](#).

English Language Arts and Literacy: K-5: The Katonah-Lewisboro School District is committed to using a comprehensive approach to literacy instruction. This approach is grounded in the [Five Essential Components of Effective Reading Instruction from the National Reading Panel \(2004\)](#), the standards and practices of the NYS Next Generation Standards, and the science of reading research. Our approach includes explicit instruction and opportunities for students to develop skills and strategies in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We use a variety of structures to teach the essential components of effective reading and writing. Some structures teach skills in isolation, some teach skills in the context of reading and writing, while others help bridge the two. Rather than compartmentalizing the essential components of reading and writing, this combined approach supports students to learn skills in a direct and systematic way, and then to apply those skills in the context of authentic reading and writing. The structures include:

Reading Instruction	Writing Instruction
Reading Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mini-lesson (explicit instruction includes modeling and demonstration)- Independent reading- Conferring- Small group instruction (guided reading and strategy lessons)- Share Interactive Read Aloud Shared/Close Reading	Writing Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mini-lesson (explicit instruction includes modeling and demonstration)- Independent writing- Conferring- Small group instruction- Share Shared and Interactive Writing Grammar and mechanics (spacing, capitalization, punctuation)
Word Study: Phonemic awareness, phonics, letter formation, spelling and vocabulary	

Our **reading curriculum** includes a balance of literature and nonfiction (informational text). Students read daily to improve their fluency, comprehension, and stamina. The level of text complexity increases throughout the K-5 years, and assessments are used to match students with appropriate texts. Additionally, students are taught how to self-select texts for identified purposes and enjoyment. Explicit instruction focuses on foundational skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, concepts of print), fluency, and comprehension.

The **writing curriculum** includes three main types of writing: narrative, informational, and opinion. Students write daily to improve their stamina, volume, and craft. Writing occurs across the curriculum and for a variety of purposes. Students engage in both the writing process and on-demand experiences.

Speaking and listening are also important components of the literacy program. Students are taught how to effectively communicate with each other, engage in opportunities to think critically, and talk with each other about content, strategies, and original ideas.

LITERACY

This is a pivotal year for third graders as they learn to read increasingly more sophisticated and complex texts. By practicing the application of foundational skills, children will develop their fluency and reliably be able to make sense of multi-syllable words in books. Children will come to appreciate figurative language and how words are related to others. Recognizing and understanding words will help children read increasingly challenging stories and texts and build knowledge about the world around them. By the end of the year, children will be writing clear sentences and paragraphs on a range of topics, drawing on an expanding vocabulary. Teachers use the *Units of Study in Reading*, *Reading Strategies 2.0*, and *Units of Study in Writing (Heinemann)*, to guide the lessons for reading and writing workshops, and *Foundations (Wilson)* resources to guide their word study instruction.

Foundations, the primary word study resource, continues to provide the scope and sequence for a systematic approach to build upon the basic skills that were learned in the previous years. The focus on word work extends to explicit instruction of advanced word structures and spelling rules. Activities provide opportunities for practice in order for skill application to transfer to reading and writing. Throughout the year, assessments monitor student progress and are used to determine appropriate instruction for students. In handwriting, the proper formation and connections for each letter in cursive form is taught.

A sample of what your child will be working on in third grade includes:

- Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story (text evidence)
- Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (e.g., first, second, third; cause and effect)
- Engaging in a writing unit of study: ***Crafting True Stories***: Students write a personal narrative using the writing process, with increasing emphasis on drafting and revising their work.
- Engaging in a reading unit of Study: ***Mystery: Foundational Skills in Disguise***: Students practice foundational skills in longer text in order to “get” the mystery, following ideas across their texts, seeing cause-and-effect relationships, making inferences and predicting outcomes.
- Engaging in a writing unit of study: ***Changing the World: Persuasive Speeches, Petitions, and Editorials***: Third-graders use their newfound abilities to gather and organize information to persuade people about causes and issues that are important to their lives.
- Engaging in a writing unit of study: ***The Art of Information Writing***: Students write chapter books that synthesize a wide variety of information and learn to section their topics into subtopics.
- Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two different texts on the same topic.
- Writing stories that establish a situation and include details and clear sequences of events that describe the actions, thoughts and feelings of characters.
- Independently conducting short research projects that build knowledge about various topics
- Asking and answering questions about information they hear from a speaker or while participating in classroom discussions, offering appropriate elaboration and detail that build on what others have said
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguishing between literal and figurative meanings of words

MATHEMATICS

The Katonah Lewisboro School District has adopted the hands-on and minds-on K-6 Math Curriculum enVision Mathematics (2024) as the primary instructional resource to use within our math workshop model. Students explore grade-level concepts with engaging materials, manipulatives, videos, online access and interdisciplinary activities that support student learning. The program is organized to promote focus and coherence each day. Assessments provide meaningful feedback to support student learning. The comprehensive program focuses on problem-based learning, develops conceptual understanding, and most importantly, connects mathematical content and processes. Learning is also supported through small group and collaborative activities.

In third grade, students will represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division. They will understand the properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division. They will multiply and divide within 100. Students will represent and interpret data. They will understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and division. They will use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic. The students will solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic. They will develop an understanding of fractions as numbers. Students will reason with shapes and their attributes. The domains used in grade three include Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations in Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry.

[The New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards](#) focus on the standards of mathematical practices listed below:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

The recently revised 2024 edition of enVision now includes new family engagement resources that families can access online at any time. There is general topic level support and daily lesson support for families. Families can read an overview of each topic's content, sample worked problems, and related home activities. A video of the math content from that lesson is available for families to view, with review ideas and materials to support you at home.

In addition, enVision 2024 has added a student led exploration with new lessons called, "Let's Investigate!" These lessons encourage input from every student to build a collective understanding of new ideas. "Let's Investigate" introduces new concepts and lays a foundation for upcoming lessons.

SCIENCE

Science is taught to students in grades K-5 using the Amplify Science curriculum, which is aligned to the newly released New York State Science Learning Standards *

[Amplify Science](#) is a phenomena-based science curriculum that is designed to give students engaging, realistic experiences that mirror how scientists and engineers work. As such, this elementary program blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive digital tools to empower students to think, read, write, and argue like real scientists and engineers. Amplify's compelling hands-on investigations, print resources, and digital modeling tools and simulations work together to enable students' investigations and explorations. These experiences also prepare students to successfully complete the four state-mandated science investigations in grades 3, 4, and 5, and the culminating state assessment in the Spring of 5th grade.

(Source: <https://amplify.com/programs/amplify-science/>)

3rd Grade Science Units:

- Balancing Forces
- Inheritance and Traits
- Environments and Survival
- Weather and Climate

*“The [New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards](#) are based on the Framework for K–12 Science Education developed by the National Research Council and the Next Generation Science Standards. The framework outlines three dimensions that are needed to provide students with a high-quality science education. The integration of these three dimensions provides students with a context for the content of science, how science knowledge is acquired and understood, and how the sciences are connected through concepts that have universal meaning across the disciplines.”

[*Introduction to the NYS P-12 Science Learning Standards*](#)

SOCIAL STUDIES

Building upon the [New York State Social Studies Framework](#), the Katonah-Lewisboro curriculum supports teachers in integrating the elements of the Framework (Key Ideas, Conceptual Understandings, and Content Specifications) with Social Studies practices and Common Core Literacy Standards into rigorous and engaging curricula and instruction. Through an inquiry-based approach to instruction, students develop thematic and conceptual understandings while applying disciplinary practices and literacy skills in the context of the content of Social Studies.

The Katonah-Lewisboro Social Studies curriculum incorporates the Teacher's Curriculum Institute (TCI) program as an instructional resource to support our Social Studies Curriculum. TCI is a program that creates social studies resources to enable educators to improve their ability to engage students in a diverse classroom. TCI resources and services are based on proven teaching strategies and practices that bring education to life to achieve consistent and positive classroom results. The TCI program is specially curated to meet state standards, create engagements in lessons and help students better understand the content through hands-on and experiential exercises. In addition, teachers have access to Social Studies ELA, a digital resource collection curated by educators throughout the region and offered through BOCES of Putnam Northern Westchester. The EngageNY website also provides access to inquiries that are aligned to the New York State Social Studies Framework.

In third grade, students study “Communities around the World.” In this course, students learn about communities around the globe and about global citizenship with the understanding that students bring with them knowledge about their communities. Students make comparisons across time and space, examining different communities and their cultures. Culture includes social organization, customs and traditions, language, arts and literature, religion, forms of government, and economic systems. Students are introduced to the concepts of prejudice, discrimination and human rights, as well as to social action.

Key ideas include:

- Each community or culture has a unique history, including heroic figures, traditions, and holidays.
- Communities share cultural similarities and differences across the world.
- Communities from around the world interact with other people and communities and exchange cultural ideas and practices.
- The concept of universal human rights suggests that all people should be treated fairly and should have the opportunity to meet their basic needs.

HEALTH

The health program, *The Great Body Shop*, is designed to promote behaviors that foster better health. Though students study similar topics at each grade, the depth of content and complexity of ideas vary from grade to grade. All students study growth and development, nutrition, safety, illness prevention, substance abuse prevention, personal safety, family life, and community health. Third grade topics include: *Safe at Home, Safe Away; Let’s Eat, Community Health, I Like Your Attitude, and Your Family, My Family*. All students will learn about the importance of physical fitness and nutrition through their physical education classes.

TECHNOLOGY

In line with the district’s [Technology and Learning Commitments](#), technology is seen as a tool to enhance student learning, support an active learning environment, and is integrated throughout the curriculum. Each student is issued a district iPad and a network log-in that provides access to district apps and programs.

Students:

- Understand and practice responsible use of technology systems and information
- Use technology tools to enhance productivity and creativity
- Use a variety of media formats to communicate information and ideas effectively
- Use technology resources for solving problems and making informed decisions

In addition to previously learned skills, in third grade students:

- Demonstrate proper keyboarding techniques
- Understand and identify network printing/printers
- Demonstrate file saving and retrieval from different drives
- Retrieve and edit a word processed document
- Use electronic databases to locate information

LIBRARY MEDIA

The Katonah-Lewisboro Library Media Program is designed to foster a love of reading and teach the skills that enable students to become effective and efficient users and producers of information. Student exploration of technology for learning and information is a key component of the library curriculum. The library media program integrates skills into all content areas at each grade level. These skills are taught in collaboration with the classroom teacher in the context of the curriculum. The three main areas of emphasis in the library media program are:

The Information Problem-Solving Process

- Formulate appropriate questions
- Locate applicable sources
- Analyze and evaluate information retrieved
- Synthesize learning
- Evaluate the problem-solving process
- Clearly present their findings.

Literature Appreciation

Students acquire an appreciation of a wide range of literature in a variety of formats.

Technology

Students develop the ability to use the tools necessary to access and communicate information.

Third grade students:

- Use the OPAC (automated catalog) to locate resources
- Read and understand the characteristics of a variety of literature genres
- Use the research process to explore a topic of study
- Use non-fiction features to facilitate information use
- Use appropriate technology to locate and collect information from a variety of sources
- Use age appropriate multi-media
- Demonstrate age appropriate digital citizenship

ART

The elementary art curriculum allows students to focus on a variety of drawing and painting skills and two-dimensional design in the atmosphere of a traditional *atelier* while adhering to the canon of fine arts as well as the [New York State Learning Standards for Visual Arts](#).

Through the paradigm of art history and criticism we will focus on the elements and principles of art and design with an emphasis on composition and creative problem solving.

Across all grade levels, there is an emphasis on STREAM (Science, Technology, Research, Engineering, Art/Design, and Mathematics). From architectural design to perspective study, to color and value theory and three-dimensional design, STREAM is interwoven and is coming more to the forefront of visual art education. Students will create projects that apply these skills to a linear (one and two-point) perspective, full color drawing, a still life painting, landscape painting and portraiture.

Students are required to complete projects and sketchbook assignments. Successful students are willing to be creative, take risks, show evidence of effort and master visual language and cognitive skills.

MUSIC

Musical skills will be further developed throughout 3rd Grade. Content areas will be taken to a deeper level of understanding. As students' knowledge of musical literature expands, new concepts in standard notation will be taught. A recorder unit is taught to help develop reading and performance skills, as well as to develop students' sense of musicianship. Learning to play the recorder is a foundation for 4th grade instrumental study.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education department places a strong emphasis on physical fitness at all levels. Students are introduced to age-appropriate fitness concepts and skills which are emphasized in all grade levels.

The K-5 curriculum encourages the development of the following in students:

- Physical fitness (both cardiovascular and muscular-skeletal)
- Communication skills
- Cooperation
- Risk-taking
- Safety
- Self-initiative
- Leadership
- Trust
- Self-respect, as well as respect for others

THE LEARNING COMMITMENT AND DISTRICT FOCUS AREAS

[The Katonah-Lewisboro School District's Learning Commitment](#) is an aspirational statement that guides the teaching and learning environment in our schools. In addition, the district has three major focus areas that provide opportunities to make the Learning Commitment come alive as students and faculty work on solutions to some of the most pressing problems in our world today. These areas are Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging; Social Emotional Well-being, and Sustainability. Our work in these areas is guided by the following policies:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Policy 0105, Adopted June 2022)
- Sustainability (Policy 5410, Adopted June 2009)
- Campus Sustainability (Policy 8920, Adopted November, 2012; Revised and Adopted April, 2016)
- School District Aims and Goals (Code 0200)