

## Language Arts

The 3-5 Language Arts program has been divided into daily components:

- Reading Aloud
- Guided Reading
- Writing as a Process (modeled, shared, guided & independent writing)
- Spelling

Students will:

- Use strategies to construct and convey meaning
- Consider the writer's purpose and audience needs in the writing process
- Draft a piece of writing using a minimum of three connected paragraphs
- Write a fable, folktale, or humorous story using personification and third person point of view
- Identify and use subject/verb agreement, possessives, and all verb tenses
- Spell grade level and sight words correctly
- Identify, listen to, and discuss core genres (biographies, encyclopedias, magazines, textbooks, dictionaries, fables, folktales, humorous stories, and poetry)
- Identify organization patterns (cause/effect, four-step sequential, compare/contrast) in grade level texts
- Identify characters' thoughts/motivations, and story-level themes
- Learn test-taking strategies
- Use comprehension strategies to deepen understanding of grade-level appropriate text
- Read independently and fluently at grade level



## Mathematics

Third grade students will learn to use mathematics to make sense of their world. They will draw logical conclusions using mathematics to explain their thinking. Number sense and problem-solving are stressed. Manipulatives and pictorial models play an important role.

Units of study include:

- Graphs
- Place Value
- Estimating and Rounding
- Addition and Subtraction
- Time and Money
- Multiplication and Division
- Geometry
- Fractions and Decimals
- Measurement

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## Science

Third grade science investigates topics in each of the three science disciplines: life, earth, and physical science. Instructional emphasis includes discovery and inquiry-based learning, reading, experimental design, and reflective writing.

Students will use a variety of resources and skills to explore:

- Chemistry (physical changes in matter, size, shape, dissolving, evaporating)
- Plants (life cycles, food and energy transference, food web, plant, part functions)
- Rocks and Minerals (geologic properties, fossils, geologic comparisons)
- Space (sun, moon, earth, solar system)

## Health

The third grade health curriculum continues the emphasis on acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to developing a healthy lifestyle.

Students will:

- Learn about the six body systems
- Learn about keeping body systems balanced
- Learn about foods in the grain group
- Understand cooperative learning
- Learn about saying "no" to drugs and alcohol
- Apply safety skills

## Social Studies

The third grade social studies curriculum focuses on the study of Michigan from the glacial period up to statehood in 1837.

Units of study include:

- Geography of Early Michigan
- Native Americans of Michigan
- Arrival of the Europeans (1500s-1700s)
- Preparation for Statehood (1776-1837)
  - Michigan and its role in the American Revolution
  - Michigan (Northwest) Territory
  - War of 1812
  - Erie Canal
  - Underground Railroad
  - Toledo War



## Art

The third grade art curriculum emphasizes imagination and personal experiences.

Students will:



- Study artists Van Gogh, Calder and Native American Art
- Learn to detect subtle visual qualities in art
- Use art vocabulary in discussions
- Differentiate between opinion, fact and accepting others' opinions on art
- Expand their knowledge of artists and contemplate why people create artwork
- Understand the functions and cultural origins of art
- Acquire basic skills in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, sculpture, fibers and clay

## General Music

Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of music.

Students will:

- Compose and improvise using voice, instrument and movement
- Demonstrate a competency in music reading, notation and aural skills
- Analyze, evaluate and describe music
- Play a variety of classroom instruments
- Perform in groups and alone using voice, instruments and/or movement
- Learn about symbols and rhythm in music
- Identify simple musical form
- Identify instruments from various cultures by name and sound

- Learn about various composers, cultures and their music (Brahms, Coplin, Stravinsky and Native American)
- Incorporate music and technology

## Technology

Our elementary schools incorporate technology into all areas of the curriculum. Students are introduced to word processing, and engage in projects such as book reviews, class newspapers, book publishing, research, multimedia projects, desktop publishing and telecommunications with children in other schools via on-line resources.

Areas of study include:

- Keyboarding
- Word Processing
- Network Programs
- Multimedia



## Physical Education

The physical education curriculum provides the programs, activities, and instruction necessary to develop healthy, lifelong, responsible citizens.

Students will:

- Continue to develop muscular flexibility, strength and cardiovascular endurance
- Perform various locomotor skills (walking, running, jumping, skipping, hopping)
- Learn creative and rhythmic movement
- Perform selected tumbling skills and use gymnastics equipment
- Learn to throw and catch
- Learn to play basketball and soccer
- Use sports equipment
- Learn game rules
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship

Oxford Community Schools

# Curriculum Guide



## Information for Parents

This guide is intended as a brief overview. For more complete information about the Oxford Community Schools' curriculum, please visit our district website at:

[www.oxfordschools.org](http://www.oxfordschools.org)

