

St. Isidore Catholic School's curriculum is fully aligned to the Diocesan Learning Standards and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Furthermore, our curriculum is vertically aligned from grades preK through 8. Our curricula is strengthened even more by using a continuous improvement framework based on Response to Intervention / Multiple Tiered System of Supports, scientifically based instructional strategies, formative and summative assessment, and positive behavior management.

The Whole Child

A complete **Grade Three** experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Isidore Catholic School, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically as well. We will instruct the children in Christian values, social skills and manners, independence, and the structure and routine of school. It is our quest to build a foundation for the children to become not only life-long learners, but loving and caring individuals. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these high goals.

Religion

Jesus is at the center of everything we do at St. Isidore Catholic School. **Third graders** will learn that prayer is a personal dialogue with God. They will come to know that there are many places and times to pray. The students will pray and write different types of prayers (blessing, intercession, thanksgiving, and praise). The Apostle's Creed is another prayer students will learn and recite. In addition, third grade students will categorize the seven sacraments as initiation, healing, or vocation. They will also recognize that the seven Spiritual Works of Mercy help others and allow them to grow closer to God. Third grade students will read Bible stories to know the life of Jesus through Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. They will identify the purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain key events, or mysteries, in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them. The mysteries learned are Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious.

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

READING

The focus of reading in **third grade** involves comprehension, word reading accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary acquisition of literary texts and informational texts. Through differentiated instruction, students will gain knowledge of the following skills:

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of text, referring to the text for the answers
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how key details provide support
- Describe characters in a literary text and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events
- Understand the elements of literature (plot, character, setting, theme)
- Describe the relationship between events, ideas, or concepts in an informational text
- Use text features to locate information in an informational text
- Apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills to identify words
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text

WRITING AND LANGUAGE

Third grade students use writing to convey thoughts and meaning. They will have opportunities to write authentic opinion pieces, informative texts, and narratives. The students will also use the writing process of prewriting, revising, editing, and writing a final draft. They will develop writing skills using the 6+1 Traits of Writing: ideas, organization, word choice, conventions, voice, sentence fluency, and presentation. During writing instruction, the third graders will gain an understanding of standard English grammar, particularly the main parts of speech (nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs.) Other language topics include:

- Capitalize appropriate words in titles
- Commas and quotation marks
- Possessives
- Conventional spelling

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

The class will learn how to speak and respond in collaborative discussions, including one on one, in groups, and teacher-led. They will have a seat speaking and listening time as part of the ELA curriculum, too. **Third graders** will also give a mini-speech in front of their teacher and classmates.

Mathematics

Third grade students will learn to apply knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve problems. Additional math concepts include geometry, measurement, and fractions.

Third grade students will:

- Add and subtract two and three digit numbers
- Solve multi-step word problems
- Chart, compare, and graph data
- Know multiplication and division facts within 100
- Develop an understanding of fractions as a number on the number line
- Use measurement data to explain time, liquid volume, and mass
- Measure perimeter and area
- Identify, describe, classify, and compare characteristics of plane shapes

Science

Through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining, students will study earth science, physical science, and life science. Units of study include forces and interaction, climate and weather, and organisms within environmental changes.

Social Studies

Throughout the year, **Third grade** students will closely read texts to gain knowledge about history, geography, and the political system. They will learn about Native Americans, their shelters, how they used materials in their environment, how they communicated, as well as their culture. Third grade students will study influential African Americans throughout history. Third grade students complete a major unit on the State of Illinois, including state geography, symbols, history, and government.

Physical Education

In **Third grade**, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, acquire and awareness of personal health needs, follow more complex sequences and movement in games and dance, and participate in cooperative group games.

Technology

As part of our STEM focus, **Third grade** students will begin to develop digital skills enabling cross curricular activities that integrate technology in the classroom.

Third grade students will:

- Produce digital content including text and images using word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software
- Begin using online collaboration tools for assignments and instruction
- Expand use of word processing and assignment management programs
- Expand computer programming skills to include more advanced topics
- Responsibly use the internet for research purposes
- Continue to develop keyboarding skills
- Continue to understand what it means to be a good digital citizen

The Arts

Third grade students continue learning about the principles and elements of art. They have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms. **Third grade** is introduced to the additive process of art.

Library

Third grade students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week. They will also recognize different sections of the library and know how to use the library.

Music

In **Third grade**, the music curriculum is expanded to include music theory concepts which concentrate on reading music by understanding the use of symbols, notations and musical terminology. In addition, music appreciation is introduced with emphasis on music history, composers, and genres of music. Traditionally, third graders are part of the student choir. Instruction includes both sacred and secular music.

