

BIBLE

Third grade uses *Building on the Rock* Bible Curriculum, published by Summit Ministries. *Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for worldview education. This innovative Christian elementary school Bible curriculum is the first truly integrated biblical worldview and Bible survey course of its kind. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with his creation.

Building on the Rock is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around twenty biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical viewpoint. They stop seeing the Bible as just a book of unique stories and start seeing Scripture as the litmus test for every idea they encounter. Students start “connecting the dots” between what they find in Scripture and how they should think and live. Engaging activities across all curriculum subjects and utilizing the Socratic Method help shape our students’ spiritual formation and instill a confident faith. Students will learn to know, love and trust God’s Word.

LANGUAGE ARTS**READING**

Reading is the foundation upon which much of their 3rd grade curriculum rests. Third grade uses the curriculum *ImagineIt!*, published by Open Court. It is a comprehensive reading program. Textbook Readers correlate to each theme and provide practice for building fluency, story structure, story elements and comprehension strategies. Students are exposed to a wide genre of literature. Students read fiction, nonfiction and learn about mysteries, fables, fairy tales, poetry, etc. They participate in class directed literature studies and take part in numerous book reports throughout the year. Students also have small group and individualized instruction for the purpose of addressing specific needs and abilities. Included in this small group time is a novel study where each group reads a different leveled novel based on their abilities.

Students are also required to participate weekly in an Accelerated Reading (A.R.) program. This program has students reading books at their independent reading levels and taking periodic quizzes over these books. The goals of the A.R. program are to create a love of reading and increase reading comprehension skills.

SPELLING

Spelling is a fundamental skill in written communication. We use Spalding’s *Writing Road to Reading*, a total language arts program, integrates essential research-based components, an educational philosophy, and a methodology consisting of time-tested principles of learning and instruction. The Spalding Method is: Explicit, Sequential, Multisensory, and Diagnostic. Students learn the purpose for every task and are active participants throughout Spalding lessons. Daily observations and assessments enable teachers to tailor instruction to meet each child’s individual needs: English Language Learners of all ages, Special Needs Students and Gifted. Thus, differentiated instruction is embedded in The Spalding Method. Spalding teachers believe that students’ physical and mental well-being is a primary concern and that all children can learn.

LANGUAGE

The third grade classrooms will be using *Patterns of Power: Inviting Young Writers into the Conventions of Language*. Using this program, students will be studying the conventions authors use to communicate through various types of literature. We begin to study each new part of speech by looking at a selected sentence for meaning first, and then investigate it, discussing what we notice and wonder about. This makes conventions and grammar accessible. Students learn what they can do with their writing, while also classifying sentences and writing their own. The whole purpose of grammar is to elevate their writing. Not only will students find that learning English is fun, they will understand that God gave us the written word not only to communicate with each other but to also follow in His way. Genesis 2:20-24

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is integrated from our ImagineIt! Reading program, social studies, and science curriculums. Through these curriculums, vocabulary is used as cross curricular program that increases the students' vocabulary, improve their word usage skills and allows students to become better readers and writers.

LITERATURE

Research has demonstrated that children's literature produces benefits to the development of language and, thus, literacy. Critical thinking is enhanced, as is the students' engagement in their learning. The rich variety of children's literature offered in 3rd grade not only stimulates language growth, and thus increases the learners' communication skills, but is also developmentally appropriate, well-written, and appealing to the students.

WRITING

Scottsdale Christian Academy has made a commitment to develop students who are skilled in communicating with written language. Students will be taught the Six Traits Writing model, which is simply a way to teach and assess writing while focusing on six qualities evident in outstanding written work. These six qualities are Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency and Conventions. Instruction will also be given in the writing process which involves brainstorming/pre-writing, drafting, revision, editing and the final step, "publishing" (illustrating, etc.) the final product. SCA uses the Write Source textbook to assist in meeting 3rd grade writing goals. By using spelling, language, and the Six Traits Writing model curriculums, students will be better able to utilize their God given talents in various written masterpieces. All students continue contributing to their writing portfolio which will travel with them from year to year in order to assess the growth and development of their written work over time.

HANDWRITING

Long proven to be a fundamental part of any language arts curriculum, handwriting instruction builds communication skills for a lifetime. Third grade uses A Reason for Handwriting to develop fluency: connecting letters to increase speed of writing improves attention span, and fosters academic performance. Third graders continue to build on their introduction to cursive writing and strive for proficiency.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Scottsdale Christian Academy believes in building student confidence and communication skills early in their education by providing students numerous public speaking opportunities. Students from K-6th grade

are given classroom oral reports several times a year, with the additional possibility to publicly address the entire elementary student body in Chapel. With the new global, technologically advanced society surrounding our youth today, SCA believes it is imperative, more than ever, to provide a foundation and enable students to cultivate public speaking at a young age. Expressing thoughts and ideas still remains the cornerstone in any profession or relationship. Development of public communication skills early in life allows students to position themselves for optimal success.

MATH

enVisionmath 2.0 (Pearson) is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum for Grades K-5. It is organized to develop mathematical content connections with built-in connections across lessons, across topics, across strands, and across grades. Every lesson in **enVisionmath 2.0** provides a worked-out problem in the student materials that introduces the important mathematics of the lesson through a series of visual illustrations that promote understanding. This is called the Visual Learning Bridge. This is a bridge because it connects the students' thinking and solutions for new mathematical ideas of the lesson. The *Solve and Share* in **enVisionmath 2.0** requires the student to select, implement, and manage multiple math practices. Another layer of **enVisionmath 2.0** relates to math practices. Math practices are the habits of mind, processes, and dispositions that enable a learner to understand mathematics and to use or do mathematics with understanding. Math practices translate to observable verbal and written actions by students as they do mathematics. When students connect ideas, they deepen their understanding. **enVision 2.0** is organized into clusters of connected topics and lessons. Students learn to see relationships, ask questions, and try different approaches. Since the goal and promise of **enVisionmath 2.0** is to develop understanding, the math practices are infused in all aspects of the program. Finally, **enVisionmath 2.0** grows from the organization of the program and the core instructional model used daily. However, there are many other elements that contribute to making **enVisionmath 2.0** a high-quality curriculum. Throughout the program, students at every grade level will make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. **enVisionmath 2.0** provides a wide variety of differentiation resources and strategies. Tiered activities, learning centers, flexible grouping, and technology help accommodate learning styles and readiness. **enVisionmath 2.0** also allows students and parents to access online tools from the math curriculum. This online suite allows students and parents access to lessons, practice, videos, and assessments.

SCIENCE

Students use the Purposeful Design Science Series which weaves together the wonders of the created world and a Biblical worldview. The National Science Education Standards specify content requirements for each grade which are fully met in this series. Additionally students gain proficiency in using the scientific method and a variety of technical resources to conduct scientific investigations. Students in Third Grade will study: Life Science (Ecosystems, Plant Life), Physical Science (Matter, Motion and Force, Electricity, Magnets), Human Body (The Musculoskeletal System, Nervous System, Health), and Earth and Space Science (Rocks and Soils, The Earth's Surface and its Changes, Solar System, Stars and Constellations).

SOCIAL STUDIES

Third grade students use the textbook *Our Communities* by Harcourt. Units of study include: Communities around Us, Communities and Geography, Communities over Time, Citizens and Government, People in Communities, and Working in Communities. Harcourt Social Studies is a comprehensive K-5 curriculum designed to engage and motivate every student. Through the stories of the intriguing people, exciting places, and fascinating events that make social studies relevant to their lives, students gain a global perspective. They also learn the social studies themes and skills they need to become informed, participating students, use critical thinking skills, and be active in their communities.

Students continue the experience of the Junior Achievement program which reinforces the understanding of family, school and community. They are taught the basic concepts of business, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, economics, and how education is relevant to the workplace.

ART

Students in 3rd grade attend art class once per week. They work on adding more detail to their drawing skills. They are instructed in portraiture and begin to develop a keen eye for the angles, lines and structure in the human face. They learn about the concepts of foreground, middle ground and background as they begin simple landscapes. Architectural shapes are identified and new mediums are used. They learn about 3-dimensional shapes by introducing sculpture of the human form. They continue this study in order to learn about proportion and movement. More responsibility is handed over for cleanup and maintenance of the materials. Third graders continue their study of master artists through the Art Masterpiece program. It is a national art enrichment project that uses reproductions of fine works of art to promote art literacy in children. Parent volunteers bring the prints to the classroom and present a lesson planned for 3rd grade. Art Masterpiece lessons are taught on a monthly basis, usually six times per school year. They usually consist of a “hands on” project. The purpose of the lesson is to increase the child’s awareness of art. As this occurs, students are able to recognize more of the art that they encounter in their world every day.

MUSIC

Students in 3rd grade attend music class twice per week. SCA’s music program focuses on creating a love and awareness of music in daily life. Children are encouraged to have a heart for worship and glorifying God while learning music from around the world. Basic note reading, rhythms and vocal pitches are also taught through dance and games. Recorder instruction begins second quarter. Student objectives are based on National Music Standards and SCA values.

TECHNOLOGY

Students in 3rd grade attend computer class twice per week. The technology program focuses on higher order skills and curriculum integration with classroom topics and activities. Computers are used to reinforce the curriculum and provide both guided and independent practice. Student objectives are based on the Arizona Technology Standards and SCA technology goals.

SPANISH

Students in 3rd grade go to Spanish class once per week. Students will be able to: respond to classroom commands; recognize vocabulary related to seasons, colors, days of the week, months of the year, food,

clothing, parts of the body, classroom, family members; compliment another person's efforts; express gratitude and respond to expressions of gratitude; recite a poem or sing a song; color the countries where Spanish is spoken on a map of the world; comprehend weather terms; solve basic math concepts; compare the vowel system between Spanish and English.

RESEARCH SKILLS

Students in 3rd grade visit the library once per week for research skills class. Research skills classes focus on using grade specific critical thinking skills to discover facts and information through the use of online and bound reference materials and library resources. Research is integrated with classroom curriculum and topics. Critical thinking skills are also developed via genre and author studies.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

3rd grade students attend PE class twice per week. They learn the basics of manipulative, loco motor, and non-loco motor movement. Some of the topics covered are:

- Increasing dodging and fleeing skills inside of higher competition
- Increasing fitness skills
- Setting Fitness Goals
- Understanding connection between fitness and health
- Leadership skills
- Cooperation, teamwork, and encouragement
- Large muscle movement and body control
- Balance
- Spatial awareness
- Rhythm
- Safety inside of activities
- Following Rules and Procedures
- Organization
- Listening skills
- Using different pathways, levels, and speeds inside of activities and sports
- Increasing skills needed to succeed in activities and sports
- Practicing successful use and incorporation of all of these skills

INNOVATION AND CREATION HUB

Each elementary homeroom class visits the Innovation and Creation HUB once a week. Students focus on STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Students are provided with hands-on learning with activities centered around the problem-solving method of Ask, Discuss, Design, Create, Test and Revise. Activities are determined by the curricular units being studied in homeroom classes and are designed for age appropriate learning. Students are encouraged to take risks whether it is designing a Moon Lander, coding a robot to engage in a specific task, or designing a piece to be 3D printed. In the HUB students embrace the four C's: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication. These four C's are crucial to fostering innovators and leaders of the 21st century.

FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

- Third grade classes take several field trips throughout the year. These may include the following:
- Oakland A's Spring Training Game
- Overnight trip to the Phoenix Zoo
- Sealife Aquarium
- Phoenix Art Museum
- Wildlife World Zoo

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