



Third Grade Curriculum

Religion

Our religion curriculum is taught using *Spirit of Truth The Kingdom of God and the Church* by the Sophia Institute. Students learn about the Catholic Church, the Holy Spirit, and how he guides the Church, and how Jesus continues his mission through the Church.

- Basics of the Trinity and all seven sacraments
- Prayer and living as children of God
- Jesus' Parables of the Kingdom
- Mary as the Mother of the Church
- Children attend Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Adoration
- Liturgical Calendar
- Seder Meal
- Mass Buddies
- Prayer Buddies

Math

In third grade, we use *Progress in Mathematics* by Sadlier. Progress in Mathematics for 3rd grade is a comprehensive math program by Sadlier that builds conceptual understanding and skills for third-grade standards, including multiplication, division, fractions, and problem-solving. It uses a consistent, stepped-out lesson approach to help students master concepts through practice, and includes resources like student workbooks, digital content, and diagnostic assessments to help teachers identify and address learning gaps.

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum follows several programs including *Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics*, *Heggerty Phonemic Awareness*, *Developmental Spelling*, and *Grammar Workshop*.

Wilson Learning Foundations Phonics

Foundations Grade 3 is a phonics program that builds upon previous skills by focusing on advanced spelling rules, word structure, and morphology, including advanced syllable types and suffixes. The curriculum aims to help students master a wide range of word structures, including those with unexpected vowel sounds, r-controlled vowels, vowel teams, and silent letters.

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum

The [Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum](#) is a systematic, 35-week oral and auditory foundational skills program. Designed for daily 10-to-12-minute lessons from Pre-K through first grade (with intervention options for older grades), it focuses on teaching children to hear, identify, and manipulate the sounds of language.

Developmental Spelling Assessment

A third-grade description of the *Developmental Spelling Assessment* involves assessing a student's spelling stage, including their understanding of single-syllable short vowel words, consonant blends, and digraphs. Students are typically expected to correctly spell most single-syllable, short vowel words and words with common blends and digraphs, while making some errors on more complex words. The DSA helps identify specific areas of weakness, such as silent letters or prefixes, to guide instructional planning.

Grammar Workshop

Sadlier's Grammar Workshop for third grade is a consumable student workbook divided into six units covering grammar, usage, mechanics, and the writing process. It includes clear explanations, scaffolded activities, writing prompts, unit reviews, and access to free online resources like printable worksheets and self-checking quizzes. The program focuses on sentence construction skills, subject-verb and pronoun agreement, and other grade-appropriate conventions of standard English.

Social Studies

Our Social Studies curriculum is taught using the *Gallopade* Social Studies curriculum. This curriculum was designed specifically with Tennessee state standards in mind.

Our third grade students also create “pumpkin globes”. They create their own personal globe on a large pumpkin using paint and markers and they label continents, oceans, etc. This is a

traditional third grade activity that gives the students a hands-on opportunity to learn about our planet Earth.

Science

Our science curriculum is taught using a variety of resources. Examples of the standards topics covered include:

- Scientific process
- Fossils
- Rocks
- Erosion and Weathering
- Pollution
- Solar System
- Weather
- Soil/Planting a garden
- Water cycle
- Living and non-living organisms
- Matter

Handwriting

Our handwriting curriculum is taught using Universal publishing's *Writing Our Catholic Faith*. In third grade, detailed introduction to cursive basic strokes, letters, joinings, and numerals. Cursive word and sentence models help students learn proper spacing. Cursive joining models on every lowercase letter page. 3/8" writing lines with midline and descender space.

Technology

St. Matthew is an Apple Distinguished School. Technology is used in whole group and small group center instruction. Students integrate computer class into their weekly schedule, gaining access to a complete set of iPads and keyboards. This class familiarizes them with the fundamentals of word processing and presentation software, along with skills in keyboarding, coding, robotics, stop motion animation, and video editing. Technology is used in a developmentally appropriate way in our 3rd grade program.