

# Third Grade Curriculum Objectives

Guardian Lutheran School

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## **Mission Statement**

As we share the love of Jesus with all who enter our door, Guardian Lutheran School strives to nurture families and, through quality Christ-centered education, to prepare students academically to integrate faith and life.

## **A Christian Environment**

- Christ-centered teaching and learning
- Daily religious instruction
- Classroom devotions
- Weekly Chapel services
- Dedicated Christian teachers
- A loving, nurturing and forgiving environment.

## **Religion**

The Holy Spirit is God and He makes us His own children. He is a living and forgiving God. We want every child to know that He is their heavenly Father and that they will inherit eternal life through faith in Christ. Students will be willing and able to read from the Bible and have the concept of chapter and verse. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, they understand that they have faith and help to understand God's word. Sharing this good news of salvation through words and actions in a life of service to others is their goal. Worship is an important part of our students' lives. Students lead one chapel service each year and also lead daily devotions in the classroom. Bible stories are read and studied as the students work in the Voyages workbook to help lead them into practical application in their daily lives.

## **Art**

Drawing objects from memory or from the perception of the students' eye encourages higher order thinking and reasoning. Using primary colors, students blend colors to form complimentary ones. Art projects provide experience using different mediums as outlets to student creativity. Crayons, chalk, markers, watercolors, acrylics, yarn and clay sculpture are included.

## **Computer Science**

Besides knowing how to take care of a computer, the students are able to identify the parts of the computer. They begin to learn proper fingering or keyboard skills. Reinforcement of classroom objectives continues with the use of educational software. As students work on word processing skills, they learn to use the computer as a valuable resource and to edit their own stories before they print them out. Students also learn how to use the Internet to find information for reports. Desktop publishing is also a part of learning to make assorted documents using various fonts and graphics. Technology will also be integrated throughout the curriculum with the introduction and use of PowerPoint to create slideshow presentations.

## **Handwriting**

Emphasis is placed on refining manuscript letters and learning to use regular loose leaf paper. During the first quarter students will be expected to complete all written work in manuscript. Cursive writing begins in the second quarter. Connections between letters and correct spacing between words and sentences is practiced. By the fourth quarter all subjects will be done in cursive.

## **Language**

As students encounter more opportunities to read, they investigate and understand concepts such as multi-meaning and multi-syllable words. They use their understanding of root words, prefixes, suffixes, and derivational endings to recognize words. Exposure to different types of literature and poetic devices occurs. Comprehension and vocabulary skills are also taught. Emphasis in writing takes more of an individual effort as students write creatively and descriptively; however, they continue to work at the entire writing process. Grammar skills begin to build with students being exposed to more specific information regarding parts of speech (subjects, predicates, noun, verb, adjective, adverb), capitalization and punctuation, and subject/verb agreement.

## **Math**

Relationships of numbers are explored with manipulatives as students learn multiplication facts and skills in multiplying greater numbers and division. Addition and subtraction of larger numbers with renaming/borrowing is also taught. Teaching money values associated with change broadens the students' abilities to use their mathematical skills and interact on a daily basis with the real world. Studying decimals and equivalent fractions helps the students understand number concepts as they make graphs, use number lines and compare measurements. Problem solving skills are an integral part of

every unit, leading students to higher level thinking skills. Students are expected to memorize multiplication facts.

## **Music**

Learning about the different kinds of music and music history is important. Playing instruments allows students to be actively involved in rhythm. Playing keyboards begins at this level and students begin to use their knowledge of notes. Chords and rounds provide more opportunities for student to experiment with harmony. Creating simple songs and learning more about instruments according to categories is a valuable part of the curriculum. Opportunities for growth in the area of vocal music continue by way of the Children's Choir elective.

## **Physical Education**

Exercises for aerobic and physical fitness and kinesthetic training are fun for the students. Skill development drills and lead up games provide practice and reinforcement of the basic skills as well as sports related skills. Throwing and catching a variety of balls are a challenge and rewarding, as more accuracy is possible at this age. Their attitudes towards physical activity are important as they learn courage to try new things, develop self-control, and understand the importance of playing not just to win but rather to have fun and help our bodies develop and become physically fit. Christian sportsmanship and values are expected to be displayed by the students.

## **Science**

Students develop process skills as they actively investigate concepts and evaluate the results of their investigations. They develop critical thinking skills and scientific reasoning skills as they respond to thought - provoking questions that conclude every activity and lesson.

*Life Science:* Life Cycles - Stages in the life cycles of animals and plants, changes in animals and plants as they mature; ways that animals and plants survive. Roles of Living Things - the needs of living things in relation to their environments; how living things adapt, change, and respond to their environments.

*Physical Science:* Forms of Energy - The forms of energy and their effect on matter; how heat energy moves, changes matter, and is measured; the benefits and drawbacks of different energy sources.

*Earth Science:* Sun, Moon, and Earth - The physical features of the Sun and Moon; the rotation and revolution of the Earth and the Moon; Earth's seasonal changes; eclipses. Earth's Water - Characteristics of Earth's water, including water and the water cycle; water distribution, pollution, and conservation.

## **Social Studies**

Understanding God's work in their world, students explore rural, suburban and big city life. As time passes, cities develop and grow and these changes produce the history of places and the people living there. Students learn about specific cities in the United States and the world. Map skills broaden as students understand how their cities are a part of larger surroundings. The environment's impact on students and conversely the students' impact on the environment becomes a more concrete idea. Throughout the Social Studies curriculum, students continue to develop and build problem solving, analyzing, comparing, contrasting, and inferencing skills.