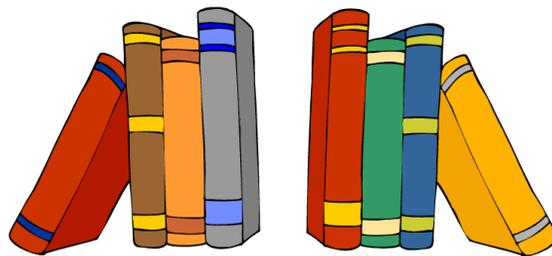


Torrington Public Schools
Curriculum
3rd Grade

Our mission is to ensure that each student will reach their highest levels of academic achievement within a safe and welcoming environment, where they are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century world. Instruction is relevant and rigorous, meeting students' academic, social, and emotional needs. Administrators and teaching staff inspire students to rise to this high standard of excellence. Administrators and teachers monitor student progress and achievement through consistent data analysis, providing the basis for future goals and programs.

Site administrators are role models and coaches who work with their staff in order to improve instruction and motivate others. All routine meetings, administrative or site based, are a reflection of best practices. These meetings are well planned interactions and opportunities for learning. The insights that result from these gatherings allows staff to be better informed as they interact with students, parents, and community members. They also build the capacity of all staff, leading to enhanced learning networks, and collaborative problem solving.

During the early release day once a month, staff members participate in Professional Learning Communities which allows them to enhance their practice. These learning experiences occur the third Thursday of each month. In addition, administrators participate in monthly meetings where they are involved in trainings on pertinent issues and skill enhancement.



LITERACY:

The Torrington English/Language Arts curriculum supports the development of proficient, engaged readers and writers. It integrates the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS) in English/Language Arts into a balanced literacy approach that includes reading workshop, writing workshop, and word study. In reading the curriculum focuses on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

By the end of Grade 3, students will be able to:

- Read closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a story
- Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories
- Compare the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic
- Write opinions or explanations that group related information and develop topics with facts and details
- Write stories that establish a situation and include details and clear sequences of events that describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of characters
- Independently conduct short research projects that build knowledge about various topics
- Ask and answer questions about information he or she hears from a speaker or while participating in classroom discussions, offering appropriate elaboration and detail that build on what others have said
- Read stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words
- Spell correctly and consult dictionaries to clarify meanings of words



MATH:

In Grade 3, instructional time focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes. (www.corestandards.org)

Instructional experiences focus on engaging students in problem solving, exploring, analyzing, discussing, and applying mathematical concepts and strategies in order to develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

By the end of Grade 3, students will be able to:

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.
- Multiply and divide within 100.
- Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.
- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition.
- Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.
- Reason with shapes and their attributes.



SCIENCE:

All Next Generation Science Standards address the following components: Physical, Life, Earth, Space and Engineering. These standards were created to better prepare students for the careers and life in the 21st Century world. Third grade students will explore these different thematic units: Motion, electricity, and magnetism; life cycles of organisms; fossils as evidence of major changes over time in the environment; traits influenced by inheritance and the environment; Earth and space weather patterns and climates and their impact on survival. All of the instructional experiences are student centered, focusing on asking questions, using observations and models, analyzing data and carrying out investigations.



SOCIAL STUDIES:

The Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks are focused on four essential components: Civics, Economics, Geography, and History. The goal is to ensure our students are prepared to become active citizens, who are well informed and can make thoughtful decisions regarding their lives and their role in the community and the nation. Social studies instruction is inquiry based, involving integration of the arts and humanities. Social studies is composed of deep and enduring understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines. In third grade, students learn about Connecticut and Our Town: Past and Present; Use of maps, globes; the rights and responsibilities of groups; perspectives on the past; local history; and how economic decision-making influenced Connecticut history.

LIBRARY:

We are fortunate to have library media specialists who teach lessons in library and technology skills to students on a weekly basis. This instructional provides foundational skills for students. The library media specialists also foster a love of learning and of books! Third grade students learn how to review Destiny on-line Catalog Skills (author, subject, title, keyword, series search); Highlight important information to read critically and synthesize information.

Research and Gathering Information: Identify and use different types of resources (print and digital): atlases, encyclopedia, non-fiction books, websites, databases; Find, use, and analyze information critically. Create multi-media presentations.

TECHNOLOGY:

Third grade students learn how to open, save, name and print share documents; how to use Microsoft Word and Google Docs; and practice typing accuracy.

Digital Safety: Students will review acceptable use guidelines: personal vs private information; use information responsibly, create appropriate passwords.

Coding: Students will use critical thinking skills to solve problems utilizing block coding.

ART, MUSIC, PE:

At Torrington Public Schools, Art, Music and PE are integral to a balanced educational program. Students receive 45 minutes of Art, 30 minutes of Music and PE each week. PE is scheduled twice a week in every grade except third. In third grade, students have 30 minutes of recorder once a week instead of PE twice a week. This experience allows them to prepare for playing a musical instrument in fourth and fifth grade. Playing a musical instrument has been linked to increased academic achievement. The Torrington Community has been recognized as one of the Nation's Best Communities for music for over a decade.