



## **Third Grade Overview**

### **Covenant Christian School**

Third grade is a wonderful learning experience at Covenant Christian School. As a major transition year between the lower and upper grades, third grade is when students begin to delve deeper into individual subjects such as History and Science. Instead of “learning to read,” students begin to “read to learn.”

#### Bible

In third grade, students focus on Old Testament stories. Starting with the creation story in Genesis, students learn about God’s plan for His people. Students also examine the lives of Old Testament heroes including Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Noah. As a class, students explore how these people fit into the history of the ancient world. These heroes’ lives serve as blueprints for each student’s own character development and spiritual formation as they are called to live as Christians.

#### Language Arts

In literature, students read books designed to introduce them to a variety of genres. Some of the works they read include *Dear Levi*, *Little House in the Big Woods*, *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, a collection of fairy tales, and Greek myths. Using a balanced literacy approach, students engage in read-aloud’s, partner reading, and full class examination of texts. Through these works, students acquire reading skills including the development of character studies, glean information from the text, and summarizing the plot.

As reading is closely intertwined with writing, students are encouraged to use these and other reading skills in their writing. Students produce many different forms of writing. These forms include the development of a research paper, writing a personal narrative, and producing a fictional story. Students build on their sentence writing skills to work on sequencing their ideas into cohesive paragraphs using the *6+1 Traits of Writing*.

As “conventions” is one of the *6+1 Traits*, students use *Voyages in English* to build their grammar skills. Students learn the different parts of speech and the correct usage of punctuation. Another important component of conventions is spelling. Students learn spelling by completing the final year of the *Foundations* phonics program. In depth vocabulary study begins in third grade using *Wordly Wise*.

#### Math

Students use *Saxon Math* to continue to build on the math they have learned in lower grades. Each Saxon lesson teaches a new math concept while reviewing concepts already introduced. In this way, students carry a firm understanding of concepts learned at the beginning of the year to the end of the grade.

After reviewing basic addition and subtraction skills, students learn the fundamentals of multiplication and division as well as beginning work with fractions. Lessons are supplemented through hands-on investigations and math games to reinforce skills.

### Science

Students begin the year by learning about the scientific method and how science impacts their daily lives. In the spring, the class, as a whole, determines the nature of and conducts a science fair project employing these methods.

The first science unit studied focuses on soil ecology and composting. Students gain an appreciation for how dead material is recycled into soil through decomposers. They also visit an industrial composting site.

The second unit focuses on developing an appreciation for the five senses. Students conduct experiments and complete investigations to learn how amazing their senses truly are, while also considering how God created us individually with unique characteristics and gifts to serve Him.

Third grade's work in the physical sciences is closely intertwined with many of the cultures studied in the History curriculum. Students examine forces and motion as well as simple machines. They consider how early civilizations had to create simple machines to help make their lives easier, and how society still employs these tools today.

To finish the year, students conduct a study of ecosystems and biomes. Students study biomes across the globe including tundra, tropical rain forest, and prairie to consider how each is impacted by rainfall and temperature.

### History

Students delve into ancient history, beginning with creation and closing the year with the fall of the Roman Empire. Using the Old Testament and Susan Wise Bauer's *The Story of the World*, students examine many different ancient cultures from around the globe. Some civilizations that are studied include ancient Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, India, China, Africa and Rome. Experiential and hands-on projects and activities are incorporated into the lessons. These include growing and cooking historical foods, and building models of ancient buildings.

Students compare and contrast leaders, consider how each civilization was affected by local environmental factors, and explore how different nations interacted through trade and warfare. Along with gaining knowledge of these cultures, students examine how timelines and maps work and also learn about modern-day archaeologists.

### Enrichment

All students have the opportunity each week to participate in Morning Gathering (Chapel), Music, Art, Drawing Physical Education and library. These enrichment opportunities provide students time outside of the homeroom to enhance work begin completed in the classroom.