

# Third Grade Elementary Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide is based on the Florida State Standards. If your child meets the expectations as outlined in this guide, he/she will be well prepared for success in fourth grade.

## MATH:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

- Multiplying and dividing up to  $10 \times 10$  quickly and accurately, including knowing multiplication facts
- Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit (e.g., multiplying  $9 \times 80$ )
- Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers (e.g., recognizing that  $\frac{3}{1}$  and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring and estimating weights and liquid volumes, and solving word problems involving these quantities
- Reasoning about shapes (e.g., all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares)
- Dividing shapes into parts with equal areas and express the part as a fraction of the whole shape

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Create a quiet place and determine a regular time for your child to study every day.
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 - 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Activities to do with your child to support learning at home

Look for "word problems" in real life such as:

- Ask your child to answer questions about everyday occasions involving using your multiplication facts — determining how many days there are in 4 weeks.
- Involve your child when you notice yourself using division to "work backward" in the times tables — such as determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party.

For more information, the full standards are available at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/pdf/mathfs.pdf>

## SCIENCE:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

### Life Science

- Structures in plants and their roles in food production, support, water transport & reproduction
- Classify flowering and nonflowering plants — those that produce seeds or produce spores
- Plants response to heat, light and gravity
- Classification of animals: mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, arthropods, vertebrates, invertebrates, live birth/lay eggs
- Plants and animals response to changing seasons- migration, hibernation- including Florida plants and animals
- Plants use energy from sun- making their own food

### Physical Science

- Water changing states: solid, liquid, gas — heating and cooling — melting, boiling, freezing, evaporation
- Measure temperatures, mass and volume of solids and liquids
- Basic forms of energy light, heat, sound, electrical, mechanical
- Energy: cause motion and create change
- Light energy: refraction, reflection, absorption
- Friction: heat is produced- rubbing
- Magnets: attract and repel

### Earth Science

- Stars: different size, brightness and approximate distance from Earth, star patterns appear to move across the sky
- Sun: light energy, closest star to Earth
- Loss of heat when Sun is not present or visible
- Force: gravity

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Go on nature walks making observations of your surroundings (plants, animals, soil, rocks)
- Bird watching - using birding guides available on line
- Star gazing — observing stars, star patterns, moon and planets
- Check out science related books from your local library
- View science related websites, webcams and videos

## LANGUAGE

## ARTS:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English as well as demonstrate beginning cursive writing skills
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Provide time and space for your child to read and write stories independently. He or she can write personal narratives, fictional stories, poetry or any genre of choice.
- Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
- Visit websites of your child's favorite authors. Most contain writing tips and strategies along with many other surprising treats for young writers and their parents.

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## ART:

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

- Create paintings using dry brush, wet on wet, and mix intermediate colors with a variety of paints on different surfaces
- Create drawings that demonstrate an awareness of space
- Create sculptures using low-relief techniques
- Create clay forms that combine pinch, coil, slab and/or relief methods and uses basic glazing techniques
- Create prints using a simple printing plate to produce multiple images
- Create artwork using mixed media and/or fiber techniques
- Create art with digital media and processes
- Describe, discuss and analyze artworks using accurate art vocabulary
- Explore artworks from individuals, groups and cultures
- Experiment with various media to encourage innovation
- Explore and use elements and principles while creating artworks
- Reflect upon choices made in personal artwork.
- Identify connections between visual art and other content areas

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Set up an "art area" with a table and art supplies such as pencils, computer or drawing paper, construction paper, scissors, glue, tape, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers and paints, brushes, and air-dry clay
- Borrow art books from the school or local library
- Go online with your child to learn about and make art using interactive art websites (*Link to several sites:* <http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/digitalartmaking> )
- Visit an art museum, art center or local gallery (*More info:* <http://www.artstampabay.com/> )

## MUSIC:

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

- Identify, visually and aurally, families of instruments
- Sing unison songs using proper singing technique and maintaining a tonal center
- Play melodic patterns and layered ostinati, using proper instrumental technique, on pitched and unpitched instruments
- Read rhythmic/melodic phrases with standard musical notation and Do, Re, Mi, So, La
- Identify the difference between simple 2/4 (duple) and simple 3/4 (triple) meter
- Improvise rhythms or melodies over ostinati
- Notate rhythmic/melodic patterns using standard musical notation and Do, Mi, So, La in 4/4
- Create a 2 measure rhythmic ostinato, to accompany songs or poems
- Identify and explain the musical form of a song
- Describe and compare, using correct music vocabulary, dynamics, tempo and tone color in musical works (e.g., genre, style, culture)
- Create, in collaboration with others, a musical interpretation of a poem or story using voices, sound sources and movement

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Listen to music with your child and discuss their likes and dislikes
- Expose your child to live musical concerts
- Encourage and provide private vocal or instrumental instruction as a supplement to school musical ensembles
- Support school and community vocal and instrumental ensembles
- Initiate and participate in family singing!

## CIVICS

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

The goal of Social Studies Civics instruction is to prepare students to be knowledgeable, informed, and active citizens in their community. In grade three; students begin to explore more complex concepts related to civics and government. Students will be engaged in conversations and learning opportunities that will strengthen their understanding of the formation and structure of the United States government. **Activities in these areas may include:**

- Explaining the purpose and need for government
- Describing how government gains its power from the people
- Explain how government was established through a written Constitution
- Identifying group and individual actions of citizens that demonstrate civility, cooperation, volunteerism, and other civic virtues
- Identifying the levels of government (local, state, federal)
- Describing how the government is organized at the local level
- Recognizing that every state has a state constitution
- Describing how the Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Write a letter to a veteran to thank them for their service
- Read a book about the United States government
- Look up fun facts about our government
- Create a Constitution for your household in order to list the rights and responsibilities of each member in your house
- Find a way to volunteer in your community
- Watch local and national elections and discuss the process with your child

