

Third Grade Curriculum Overview

New Ulm Public Schools - Independent School District 88



A leader in education through engaging and innovative programs and support structures

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Jefferson Elementary School is a child-focused primary school located at 318 South Payne Street. It shares the site and parking lot with the Middle School. The original school building was completed in September of 1962. Improvements to the growing school were completed in 1997, 2005 and 2016. The school houses grades 1 – 4 with an enrollment of approximately 635 students.

Jefferson Elementary School offers a variety of experiences, focusing on the academic, emotional and social growth of children. Some unique opportunities for Jefferson students include a free breakfast for students, Title I services for reading and math, a S.M.A.R.T. room and an autism resource room. Students also receive physical education, music, art, media, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) taught weekly by specialists.

ART

Third Grade students receive one hour per week of Visual and Media Arts Instruction. Areas of Visual Arts instruction will allow students to identify elements of art such as color, line, shape, texture, and space. Create two and three-dimensional works by drawing printmaking, ceramics, and sculpture. Identify the characteristics of art from different cultures and share works of art with others. Students will grasp the following Media Arts concepts: Identify elements such as image, sound, space, time, motion and sequence; use of digital technology and editing software to create works of art.

SCIENCE

Scientifically literate young people will understand basic science concepts, use skills for doing scientific investigations, solve technical problems, and design technologies for today's world.

Students will:

- Understand the use of science as a tool to examine the natural world.
- Explore the characteristics of sound and light.
- Understand that an object's motion is affected by forces and can be described by the object's speed and the direction.
- Investigate weather conditions.
- Understand the characteristics and relationships of objects in the solar system.
- Recognize that plants and animals have different structures that serve various functions.
- Understand offspring are similar to their parents but may have variations that can be advantageous or disadvantageous in a particular environment.
- Understand that natural systems have many components that interact to maintain the living system.

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

- Understand school policies.
- Continue to learn basic keyboarding: number pad, justifying, spell check, undo, etc. and Introduce spreadsheets.
- Know and follow copyright laws and understand the concept of plagiarism
- Protect themselves for the harmful acts of others by recognizing threats to their privacy and property (i.e., adult supervision, Internet, email, viruses, chat rooms, cyberbullying, etc.)

For great student technology resources please visit <https://sites.google.com/newulm.k12.mn.us/jefferson-tech/home>

Jefferson Elementary School

318 South Payne Street, New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone 507-233-3500 www.newulm.k12.mn.us

ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts curriculum will help ensure that students become life-long, independent learners who can use language to communicate, to stimulate the imagination, and to construct meaning. Learner outcomes for 3rd Graders include Foundational Skills, Literature, Informational Non-Fiction Text, Language and Writing. Students will gain knowledge in the following areas:

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Be able to describe the structure, characters, and how their actions contribute to a story sequence.
- Distinguish their point of view
- Determine the meanings and phrases as they are used in the text, and review the parts of a story
- Demonstrate knowledge of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Write opinion pieces with a supporting point of view with reasons.
- Create short research projects to build knowledge
- Distinguish among, understand, and use different types of print, digital, and multimedia.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 3 students focus on refining students' motor skills. It also encourages self - direction and goal setting for personal success. Expertise in the motor skills area includes dribbling, catching, kicking, strike, throw, volley, jump, rhythm, balance, rolling, weight transfer, and locomotor.

HEALTH

In 3rd Grade, the students will be able to demonstrate the following:

- Develop positive decision-making and listening skills. (Bullying, anger management, recognize good qualities in self and others, encourage peers to make positive health choices, etc.)
- Recognize and promote healthy choices, including food choices, physical fitness, and maintaining healthy habits.
- Learn the rationale for rules for playgrounds, bikes, and pedestrians.
- Identify adults to contact when help is needed.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In grade three, students will expand and deepen their knowledge in the four social studies areas: disciplines of citizenship and government, economics, geography, and history. They will create and interpret simple maps, using them to understand the physical and human characteristics of places around the world, from one's neighborhood to vast regions of the earth. As students examine the world of long ago through historical records, maps, and artifacts, they discover how geographic factors, technology, and individual and group actions have shaped history. Students practice weighing the costs and benefits in making decisions and examine the economic forces that influence interactions among individuals in a community. They further explore the civic relationship between an individual and the community in the United States in which he or she lives.

MATHEMATICS

Third Grade Math curriculum allows for students to become proficient in the following areas:

- Compare and represent whole numbers up to 100,000 with an emphasis on place value and equality
- Add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers; represent multiplication and division in various ways; solve real-world mathematical problems
- Understand the meanings and uses of fractions
- Algebraic introductions by using input /output rules to represent patterns and use number sentences involving multiplication and division basic facts to solve real-world math problems
- Develop geometry and measurement skills by finding perimeters, telling time to the minute, make a monetary change up to one dollar in several ways, using thermometers to read Fahrenheit and Celsius temperature Interpret data using frequency tables, and bar graphs

COUNSELING

In the younger grade levels, counseling is comprised of School Guidance Curriculum, Individual Student Planning, Responsive Services and System support. By the end of 3rd grade, students will have lessons in Academic Support (communication, time management and team work), Career Development (Career awareness, goal setting and managing conflict and resolution) and Personal/Social (encourage PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) and provide individual counseling).

MUSIC

The mission of the Fine Arts Department is to provide experiences for students that will assist in developing creativity and build their knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of the fine arts in the world around them. The curriculum standards include creating, performing, responding, and connecting. Students will be learning to identify the elements of music, including melody, rhythm, harmony, and dynamics. Read music and identify characteristics of music from different cultures; express musical ideas using a voice or an instrument, and compare the features of a variety of musical works.



S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) or S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

Students in grades 1 through 4 attend class in the STEM room once every seven days. The classes last 60 minutes. Students are involved in many types of activities related to science, technology, engineering, and math. The lessons include work in the STEM room, computer lab, and outside when possible.



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