

Third Grade: Bridging the Gap



The third-grade year is a year for "bridging the gap" between primary and upper elementary classes. Third grade at Brentwood Christian builds on what has been established in the early years to prepare for the challenging activities of fourth grade and beyond. It is also a year for building independence and responsibility. Some exciting aspects of the third-grade year are learning to write in cursive, learning multiplication and division, having and reading from individual Bibles, studying new and challenging concepts in social studies and science, and learning to use a textbook. We emphasize that each child is unique and that God has blessed them with fantastic gifts to discover to use for His glory. Third grade is also a year for significant emotional and spiritual growth.

The program of instruction in third-grade classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based on the school's philosophy and goals. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from Christian and secular publishers, select the best material, and write curriculum which employs that material. Studies and activities in each class are based upon the following guidelines:

BIBLE - Part of our mission statement at BCS is to "lead students to love God". In order for students to love God, they must first know Him and his Word. EL3/4 through 12th-grade students explore God's word in Bible class by hearing and studying the Bible stories of both the Old and New Testaments and participating in discussions and activities where they can apply the lessons learned through those stories in order to lead lives of Christian service and leadership.

CHAPEL - Held weekly with EL3/4 through 5th grade in attendance; about once every four to six weeks an all-community chapel assembly is held and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Chapel services have lessons that focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons and include singing and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements or recognitions.

LANGUAGE ARTS - Includes reading, spelling, English, writing, and cursive handwriting. This unit applies spelling patterns, basic grammar, usage, punctuation skills, and parts of speech in the writing process. Students use listening, speaking, and writing skills to produce a variety of student-written products. Bible class integrates literature themes with Bible lessons, science, and social studies. Students will be reading selected novels together as well as independent reading time to help grow each student as a reader. Students also help create their own spelling lists utilizing words found in their day-to-day life.

Texts currently in use: *Handwriting Without Tears* and selected novels. Students develop writing, language, and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

MATHEMATICS - Reviews basic addition and subtraction facts, two- and three-digit addition and subtraction, multiplication, and division. This unit also includes studies on measurement (customary and metric), place value, time and money, fractions and decimals, geometry, data graphs, and probability. Mathematics applies concepts and skills learned in problem-solving activities.

Text currently in use: *Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life*, Cengage. Students will practice concepts taught in the classroom.

SCIENCE - Explores the wonders of God's creation in topics from life, physical, and earth sciences, as well as biology. This unit examines topics such as the earth, sky, energy, matter, and structures of life. Science emphasizes experience and involvement in scientific processes through hands-on investigations.

Text currently in use: Full Option Science System, Texas edition by Delta Education.

SOCIAL STUDIES - Studies the makeup and structure of communities, types of communities (rural, urban, suburban), and communities in American history, physical geography, regions, culture, and government. This unit helps students understand that God has placed us in a variety of communities and that life in community entails responsibilities to one another.

Text currently in use: *Building Our Communities*, Savvas myWorld.

SPANISH - Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. Students will sing children's worship music in Spanish and participate in activities in Spanish based on Bible stories that many of the students are already familiar with in English. Students will also participate in scripture memorization activities and have the opportunity to read and write in the language. At this level, students will have occasional, optional homework. The teacher uses repetition and visuals to maximize learning potential. Through this class, students will appreciate that God loves all people and can be worshiped in different languages while learning basic vocabulary and songs!

ART - Taught in a rotation each week with music class and integrated into the other core curriculum on a regular basis. This unit uses a variety of media including markers, crayons, and colored pencils. Students work on developing skills in the creation of various products.

MUSIC - Taught by a trained music teacher in a rotation each week with art class. Music emphasizes singing and movement and basic ukulele instruction. This study introduces early music concepts such as rhythm and beat, pitch, volume, and tempo and combines musical training/appreciation with performance opportunities in the annual Christmas and Grandparents' Day programs.

Text currently in use: *Spotlight on Music*, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Students are introduced to music selections and music terminology.

DRAMATICS - Includes exposure to dramatic presentations by traveling theatrical troupes and Christian drama groups. This unit involves students directly in re-enactments of biblical stories and in short dramatic activities related to language arts and social studies projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Taught by physical education teachers daily during a thirty-minute class taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. P.E. includes daily conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and athletic skills.

COMPUTER LAB - Conducted twice a week by a trained computer teacher. Students will be introduced to the internal structure of a computer including processors, memory, and more. Students will be taught more advanced spreadsheet tools and will be introduced to organizing ideas and communicating to a specific audience using presentation software. They will be coached on improving keyboarding speed and accuracy. Students will continue working on visual mapping software to plan and outline projects. Email basics will be introduced in this grade. During the fourth quarter, students will continue learning basic coding/programming by adding concepts such as problem decomposition, functions, nested loops, and conditionals.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

LIBRARY - Features a forty-minute class once a week where students are exposed to quality children's literature and have the opportunity to check out books.

FIELD TRIPS - Taken in connection with and to enhance subject area studies. Field trips include such destinations as the Inner Space Caverns and iFLY. We honor our Veterans on Veteran's Day with cards and banners.

RECESS - Includes thirty minutes of daily playtime on the outside playground. Both third-grade classes enjoy this time for unstructured play together.

SOCIALIZATION - Develops under the watchful guidance and with the encouragement of the teacher and is practiced at recess and during daily activities. Problem-solving strategies in the context of Christian values are modeled and practiced.

HOMEWORK - Assigned about four times per week. Homework can include independent reading, spelling mastery, math, language practice, studying for chapter tests in social studies and science, Bible memory work, and work on independent study projects. See Handbook for time guidelines for each grade.

TECHNOLOGY CONNECTION - Students use various apps and websites on iPads for math, AR test, STAR testing, group activities, and collaborative projects.