

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

GRADE-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL GOALS
PARENT REFERENCE GUIDE

3RD GRADE

READING / WRITING

By the end of the school year, your third grader should be able to:

- Read a wide variety of stories, books and magazine articles
- Read silently most of the time and then talk about what they read
- Identify the main idea and important events and details in a story or book
- Use a variety of reading strategies to understand what they read
- Write stories, poems and plays
- Work on research projects and reports for social studies and science



MATHEMATICS

By the end of the school year, your third grader should be able to:

- Understand whole numbers and fractions
- Count, order and group objects
- Estimate, approximate, round or use exact numbers
- Estimate, draw conclusions and explain an answer
- Use a ruler/yard/meter stick to measure standard and metric units
- Tell time using digital and traditional clocks and determine how much time has gone by (elapsed time)
- Use objects to measure area (amount covered inside, for example, “How many blocks fit on the bottom of a shoe box?”) and perimeter (the distance around, for example, “How many blocks fit around a shoebox?”)
- Find and show data in a variety of graphs
- Determine most likely outcomes using spinners and number cubes (probability)
- Describe data using words like largest, smallest, most often and least often
- Identify and continue patterns
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide using numbers, objects and number stories
- Recognize and compare two (triangle, square, rectangles) and three-dimensional geometric shapes (cubes, prisms, and cylinders)
- Explain how they solved a math problem in their own words

SCIENCE

By the end of the school year, your third grader should be able to:

- Develop skills that will emphasize the five senses while doing science
- Build an understanding of the basic concepts in earth science such as identifying the layers of the Earth and their characteristics and explaining the rock cycle
- Know that sound is a form of energy and sound begins when an object vibrates. Sound travels through gas, liquid and solids
- Develop an understanding that plants have different structures that serve different functions in growth and survival and how the different parts of living things work together (such as the roots, stems, and leaves of a plant)
- Conduct hands-on investigations to discover and understand their world
- Record observations in science notebooks



SOCIAL STUDIES

By the end of the school year, your third grader should be able to:

- Explain qualities of good citizenship by identifying people in their community who make a difference
- Discuss the multiple roles that individuals perform in families, workplaces and communities
- Examine how individuals can initiate change in neighborhoods and communities
- Discuss the role of real and fictional heroes in shaping the culture of communities
- Discuss how problems and conflicts are resolved by leaders and communities
- Study, investigate and exhibit an understanding of African American History



HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

By the end of the school year, your third-grader should be able to:

- Recognize the importance of fruit, vegetables, calcium and water
- Recognize harmful situations and how to call 9-1-1
- Understand how good health habits help to avoid disease
- Perform push-ups, curl-ups and toe touches
- Dribble a soccer ball with the feet and dribble a basketball with the hands
- Understand rules around water

ART AND MUSIC

By the end of the school year, your third grader should be able to:

Art

- Show control and confidence in using crayons, paint and clay to create art
- Know that artists make different kinds of art from a variety of ideas
- Name different art forms such as portrait, landscape and sculpture

Music

- Sing a variety of songs representing different styles and cultures
- Sing and play songs using characteristics of loud/soft, fast/slow
- Read and write simple melodies