

What Are 3rd Graders Learning in Math?

Fluent in math means “fast and accurate.” A goal for your child’s learning is for them to become fluent in their skills so they can move on to more complex mathematics.

In third grade math, students will become **fluent** in addition and subtraction within 1000 and will multiply and divide fluently within 100. They will learn how multiplication and division are related, begin to work with fractions, calculate area, and describe and compare two-dimensional shapes.

Report card sections are:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking - about the language, patterns and symbols of math; **Numbers and Operations in Base Ten** relates to the decimal system; **Numbers and Operations - Fractions** is about amounts that are parts of a whole; **Measurement and Data** has to do with tracking information - sizes, amounts, and statistics; **Geometry** involves shapes and dimensions.

For more information, visit the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at: www.k-12.wa.us/parents-families



How Can Families Help Their Students in English/Language Arts?



3rd grade students will be able to:

- Independently read different types of writing or text, called genres
- Find the main idea and share key details from text to support thinking
- Read and comprehend grade-level texts accurately and fluently, figuring out the meaning of unknown words
- Write about their opinions or information with facts and details
- Work to plan, and edit writing to make it clearer and more organized
- Write for different purposes and audiences
- Take part in collaborative classroom conversations

Encourage your child to read 20 minutes or more every day!

- Create a reading space that is comfortable and free from distraction
- Ask your child to share details and examples or compare and contrast characters from what they read
- Encourage your child to write and read their writing to you
- Talk about current events and share ideas and opinions together
- Go to the library and encourage your child to try different types of books and tell you about them

When your child is reading, you can read too!

This is a time for transition in science education, with teaching and learning focused on three key areas in Washington State Science Learning Standards:

- 1) Science/Engineering Practices used by professionals to explain the world or solve problems
- 2) Core Ideas that include fundamental scientific knowledge
- 3) Crosscutting Concepts frame scientific thinking across life, earth/space, physical sciences.

Your child's report card shows Performance Expectations, for what students should be able to do by the end of a unit. The three dimensions are woven into each Performance Expectation.

Engage in Science at Home!!

Get outside together, taking time to notice, appreciate, and wonder about the natural world.

- Ask open-ended questions and take time to encourage thoughtful answers: "Tell me about what you made." "What do you think caused the change?" "Can you think of a different way to do it?"
- Observe carefully and notice small details about natural and physical things like shapes in a spider web or types of bread.
- Make predictions and test how things work "How long will an ice cube last on the counter?" "Will it melt faster on another surface?"

- Encourage investigation. Try taking things apart to see how they work - from flowers to old appliances. Don't worry about putting them back together!
- Let your child teach you by explaining or modelling through drawing, writing, or conversation.
- Challenge your student to argue from evidence. This is not fighting but using facts to explain their thinking. Ask: "How do you know that?" "Why is that so?"

You can support your child's teacher by volunteering to help with classroom experiences or science related field trips.

Science learning is powerful!

What's Important About 3rd Grade Social Studies?

The report card shows five areas of social studies that you and your child can discuss:

Civics - Understand that communities have people with different cultural perspectives

Economics - Understand that laws, values and customs influence economic systems

Geography - Understand elements that cultures share; Understand cultural characteristics of regions in North America

History - Understand how various cultural groups have shaped history

Social Studies Skills - Ask questions and use primary and secondary sources to find information and make conclusions



PE and Arts are Part of Basic Education Too!

Visual and Performing Arts

Research shows that students with an arts education are more engaged, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and participate in community life. In Seattle Public Schools, we want every student to receive a comprehensive, predictable arts education during their K-12 years.

Each elementary school offers different arts programs, from possibilities including visual arts, general music, theatre, dance, or instrumental music. Progress report standards come from the Washington State Arts Learning Standards, which focus on aspects of artistic process:

Creating: developing new artistic ideas and work.

Performing: interpreting and presenting artistic ideas / work

Responding: understanding and evaluating meaning in the arts

Connecting: Relating personally to artistic ideas and work

The arts are a core subject!

Physical Education

In physical education, students build movement skills, knowledge, fitness, social well-being, and confidence so they can enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle. Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing a quality physical education program to help students develop in these areas.

Our Physical Education (PE) standards are based on motor and movement patterns and skills, as well as concepts like physical literacy, which is the ability, confidence and desire to be physically active for life. PE is an instructional program, which makes it different from recess, free play, recreational sports or athletics. PE teachers work with general education teachers to provide high quality instruction for an average of 100 minutes per week, which is required by Washington State law. Schools organize PE times in different ways, but all students should be learning about their physical selves all year long!

Support the arts at home!

Ask your children what they created today.

Have your child describe what their art is about.

Art is an area children experiment and make mistakes. Ask them to tell you about a “beautiful oops”

Make art together!



In every grade, SPS' core work is supporting student learning.

We believe it is our responsibility to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, learning style or disability, achieves to their highest level.



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