

Homework

We believe homework is most useful when it develops productive work habits, consolidates in-school learning and increases children's confidence and enjoyment of learning. In 3rd grade, parents should assume the role of 'coach.' Students will have 30-40 minutes of homework, Monday through Thursday and are encouraged to read nightly as well. Parents are asked to sign their child's agenda nightly.

Character Education Approaches to Learning

Respect, responsibility and community are our core Lower School values. Teachers, counselors and administrators work throughout the year to teach, model and reinforce values. Our goal is to guide our students to develop positive social interactions and approaches to learning that will continue to grow throughout their school careers. Each quarter, students will receive a formal report card detailing their learning progress on specific skills being taught that quarter. As well, we report on the following areas we call 'Approaches to Learning:'

- Shows interest and curiosity as a learner
- Listens attentively
- Maintains focus
- Works cooperatively in groups
- Works independently
- Shows initiative
- Solves problems in a positive manner
- Respects others and surroundings
- Follows directions and rules
- Works neatly and carefully; takes pride in work
- Completes and returns all work on time

This year, the Lower School will continue to embrace an approach that we began two years ago called 'Tribes.' Tribes emphasizes living in community, understanding others and personal responsibility. The five TRIBES agreements are: Mutual Respect; Attentive Listening; Appreciation, No Put Downs; and Participation.

Parent Involvement

You are our valued partners in educating your child. We welcome your involvement in our school and classrooms. Please watch for opportunities for volunteering at school and supporting your child's learning at home.

Welcome to our Lower School!

We are a dynamic and caring learning community committed to effective and innovative teaching methods, a meaningful and well rounded curriculum, and supportive relationships between teachers, students and parents.

Our educational program is advanced by a highly qualified and dedicated professional staff comprised of home-room, 'Specials', and Portuguese teachers, as well as learning specialists, counselors and ESL teachers.

We are delighted that you are a part of our community. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and thank you in advance for all that you will do to support your child's learning experience with us.

Warm regards,
Julie Hunt
Lower School Principal



Estrada da Gávea, 132
Rio de Janeiro
Phones: 2125-9000
2125-9044 or 2125-9045
Email: Julie.Hunt@earj.com.br



3RD GRADE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

ESCOLA AMERICANA
2008-2009



This pamphlet briefly highlights the essential skills, knowledge, concepts and thematic units that will be taught to students in third grade this year. We hope it will help you anticipate, support and celebrate your child's learning experience.

English Language Learning

Third grade is an exciting year for our students. They are immersed in a literacy rich learning environment of hands-on, whole class participation and individualized instruction purposefully designed to advance skills in reading, vocabulary, word attack skills, and writing development. Oral speaking and listening skills are developed in multiple ways throughout the school year. Each class performs a play.

By the end of third grade students will:

- Distinguish reality and fantasy, cause and effect
- Identify, order, predict and analyze story parts
- Describe and analyze character traits, and make inferences
- Understand figurative language; expand vocabulary
- Use correct punctuation including exclamation marks, commas, indentation, and use proofreading symbols to edit written work with minimal teacher support
- Support opinions with relevant details
- Write letters and biographical pieces with multiple paragraphs
- Recognize parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs)
- Demonstrate proper letter size, slant and fluency in all upper and lower case D'Nealian cursive

Portuguese — Língua Pátria

A nossa meta é proporcionar aos alunos instrumentos necessários à utilização da língua portuguesa e levá-los à reflexão de seu uso. Os alunos participam das seguintes atividades: leitura e compreensão de gêneros variados; elaboração, revisão, edição e apresentação de textos e projetos; situações lúdicas e estruturadas que permitam o exercício de diferentes modalidades da língua.

Portuguese for Foreigners

The main goal of our program is to help newcomers feel comfortable with their peers and environment. We focus on developing oral skills through games, role-playing, dramatization, puppets, and songs. Children also develop reading and writing skills, emphasizing correct pronunciation and intonation.

Math

In *Everyday Mathematics*, children develop a broad background by learning concepts and skills through hands-on activities and the spiral approach. This approach involves revisiting skills often and in increasingly complex ways.

The six key content areas in 3rd grade include the following:

Number and Numeration

Counting patterns; place value; reading and writing whole numbers through 1,000,000; fractions, decimals, and integers.

Operations and Computation

Practicing multiplication and division facts extended to multi-digit problems; working with properties; operations with fractions and money.

Data and Chance

Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs; using basic probability terms.

Measurement and Reference Frames

Recording equivalent units of length; recognizing appropriate units of measurement for various items; finding area; using multiplication arrays, coordinate grids, thermometers, clocks, calendars, and map scales to estimate distance.

Geometry

Exploring 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes and other geometric concepts.

Patterns, Functions, and Algebra

Finding patterns on the number grid; solving Frames-and -Arrows puzzles having two rules; completing variations of "What's My Rule?" activities; exploring the relationship between multiplication and division.

Science and Social Studies

By the end of Lower School, both our Science and Social Studies programs endeavor to develop students who are curious, capable, critical, global, and proactive thinkers. Units explore specific themes through activity based learning and integrate with our Language Arts curriculum.

Key Thematic Units in third grade include the following:

- The Human Body (names parts and describes functions of parts of human body; demonstrates understanding of how organs are related)
- The Earth is My Home. Where is my Place? (cities, world, continents, countries, United Nations, country research project)
- 'Kids for Saving the Earth!' - a special environmental education club in which all 3rd graders participate weekly

2nd semester Science units are pending curriculum revision.

'SPECIALS' in Third Grade

Music

Third grade students learn a varied repertoire of songs. They learn to improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments; they compose and arrange music within specific guidelines. They continue to learn songs and skills on recorders and to read (names of lines and spaces on treble clef) as well as to identify, play and sing 4-sixteenth note patterns. Parents and students alike love 3rd grade music presentations.

Visual Arts

Teachers integrate the arts into thematic units. As well, our students enjoy their biweekly art classes where they are exposed to the world of art and artists, techniques and materials. Geometric and organic shapes, self portraits, sculpture, African animals and landscapes, and painting are amongst media explored.

Physical Education

We explore basic and advanced movement forms, adventure learning, body awareness, rhythmic activities and motor skills throughout the year. Key units include track and field, basketball, capoeira, floor hockey, team handball, soccer and flag football.

Library/ Media Center

In addition to literacy-rich classroom learning, during weekly Library class, 3rd graders are exposed to quality children's literature from folktales to contemporary authors and illustrators from around the world through a variety of media. Picture books, chapter books, DVDs, puppet shows, and storytellers bring print to life. Students self select items to read and enjoy them at home each week.

Technology

Technology is used as a tool for enhancing learning and teaching specific skills including problem solving, communication and decision making. 3rd graders visit the LS Computer Lab where special programs are introduced. 3rd graders especially love their story creations completed in the lab.