

September 2020

Dear Third Grade Families:

Welcome to Third Grade! Students in grade three participate in a variety of classroom experiences to expand their love of learning and develop their academic, social and physical skills while enhancing their ability to INVESTIGATE. The following descriptions present a brief overview of the comprehensive program. Due to the nature of instructional delivery at this time, we have compacted Curriculum to best meet student needs.

**i-Ready Diagnostic and Personalized Path:** This year, our students will take the i-Ready diagnostic. This diagnostic is a short series of questions that will help teachers know how to group students so that we can best address student needs and build on their strengths. The i-Ready diagnostic is administered on the computer and then the program creates a personalized series of games and activities unique for each student. We ask that each student spend 10 - 15 minutes each day on reading and math i-Ready activities for homework or asynchronous learning time. To learn more about i-Ready, please go to [www.aacps.org/iready](http://www.aacps.org/iready).

**Language Arts:** Students in third grade continue to develop and expand their literacy skills in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, speaking and listening by engaging in a variety of lessons and activities based on the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards and the Anne Arundel County Literacy Curriculum. They become more independent in utilizing before, during, and after strategies as they engage in fluent reading and comprehension of complex literary and informational texts. As writers, they engage in opinion, informative, and narrative writing while practicing handwriting skills. Students learn to compose pieces that incorporate language conventions. Students respond to text-dependent questions and write to source in all content areas. Technology skills are developed during the third-grade year. Students develop a more sophisticated understanding about utilizing online resources and interact with a variety of computer applications as well as conduct research. Technology supports learning in all curricular areas.

**Mathematics:** The Anne Arundel County Public Schools Integrated Mathematics PreK-5 Program has implemented the Maryland College and Career Ready Standards through the transdisciplinary curriculum. These standards are a set of high-quality academic goals which provide rigor, focus, and coherence to prepare our students to be college and career ready by the time they graduate from high school. Students will acquire mathematical concepts and be able to apply them to various real-life situations. The mathematical domains taught in Grade 3 include:

- Operations and Algebraic Thinking – represent and solve problems with all four operations, multiply and divide fluently within 100
- Number & Operations in Base Ten – understand place value to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Number & Operations – Fractions – understand fractions as numbers
- Geometry – shapes and their attributes
- Measurement and Data – solve problems with measurement and estimation, including the concept of area

During the time of Virtual Learning, math topics have been narrowed to include essential grade level standards, guided by the work of NCTM, NCSM and Achieve the Core. With abbreviated time dedicated to teaching mathematics, it is important for students to continue their practice on math concepts using their Ready Common Core work text, the i-Ready platform and First In Math. Students can access both digital programs through ClassLink. Students can practice mathematics in a variety of ways at home including building sets and relating them to multiplication, measuring/estimating the distance from the house to the playground, estimating or determining elapsed time when they clean their room, cooking with a family member and using the world around them to name shapes and describe their attributes

**Science:** The Science learning block focuses on education in science, environmental literacy, and engineering. Using the foundation of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), students develop questions and

investigate phenomena as scientists, environmentalists, engineers, and informed citizens. Throughout the Science learning block, students are encouraged to observe, collect, and evaluate data to share conclusions and take informed action about topics being studied. The topics are:

- Forces and Motion
- Ecosystems, Past and Present
- Life Cycles & Heredity of Organisms
- Weather & Climate
- Engineering Design

In the Spring, Students can apply what they learned by taking part in the Innovators Science and Engineering Challenge.

**Environmental Literacy:** Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards are integrated into curriculum through engaging units that connect students with their local natural world. In third grade students will be investigating environmental issues through social studies, science, and math. During the fourth marking period, students investigate an Environmental Action Project in which where they apply the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills acquired throughout the year (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) to better understand, collect data, and take action on a class-identified, environmental issue.

**Social Studies:** Students investigate important concepts from the disciplines of social studies: geography, economics, civics, and history and explore the concept of culture. Students learn about the geography, economics and government of Anne Arundel County. Students continue to practice the skills of social studies; sequencing events, analyzing cause and effect, analyzing perspective, reading and writing independently. They also listen to children’s literature to learn concepts of social studies. They complete short writing assignments, read and construct maps, charts, tables and graphs. At the end of each unit there is a culminating performance-based project that allows students to authentically apply the skills that they have learned. The units studied are:

- Our Community
- People in Our Community
- Community at Work
- Environmental Action Project

**English Language Acquisition Program (ESOL):** English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes comply with the requirements of Title III of ESSA. The goal of English Language Acquisition instruction is to enable English Learners to construct meaning from oral and written language, express complex ideas and information, as well as access grade-level instruction across content areas. In order to accomplish this goal, the ELA curriculum is based on WIDA English Language Development (ELD) standards:

- Social and Instructional Language
- The Language of Language Arts
- The Language of Math
- The Language of Science
- The Language of Social Studies

The WIDA English Language Development standards framework represents the social, instructional, and academic language that students need to engage with peers, educators, and grade-level content curriculum. As such, the framework for teaching language is integrated with the Maryland State Standards for College and Career Readiness, as well as National and State Content Standards. In addition to classroom instruction, ELs engage with personalized learning through Imagine Language & Literacy, an online adaptive learning program that builds reading and language proficiency skills. All students who have been identified as eligible to receive English Language Acquisition services will take WIDA ACCESS for ELLs, the annual assessment to measure English Language Proficiency.

**Technology:** Students increase their creativity, communicate and collaborate with others and gather, evaluate and analyze information and data using computers. They solve problems and make decisions in a manner that demonstrates their understanding of the social, ethical, and human issues related to technology.

We are looking forward to a year of learning for your third grader. If you desire additional information, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

WRL/pmw