

PARENT GUIDE

GRADE THREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Below is a list of the skills your child will be taught in Grade Three.

As parents, you are encouraged to support the work of your child’s teacher in helping your child acquire each of these skills.

CAPACITIES OF THE LITERATE INDIVIDUAL	
	They demonstrate independence.
	They build strong content knowledge.
	They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose.
	They comprehend as well as critique.
	They value evidence.
	They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
	They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.
LANGUAGE	
CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH	
	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
	Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.
	Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.
	Use abstract nouns (e.g., childhood).
	Form and use regular and irregular verbs.
	Form and use the simple (e.g., I walked; I walk; I will walk) verb tenses.
	Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
	Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.
	Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
	Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.
	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
	Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
	Use commas in addresses.
	Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue.
	Form and use possessives.
	Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words (e.g., sitting, smiled, cries, happiness).
	Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in writing words.
	Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.
KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE	
	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
	Choose words and phrases for effect.
	Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English.

VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE	
	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
	Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
	Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known affix is added to a known word (e.g., agreeable/disagreeable, comfortable/uncomfortable, care/careless, heat/preheat).
	Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., company, companion).
	Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.
	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
	Distinguish the literal and non-literal meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps).
	Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are friendly or helpful).
	Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe states of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., knew, believed, suspected, heard, wondered).
	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).
WRITING	
TEXT TYPES AND PURPOSES	
	Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
	Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
	Provide reasons that support the opinion.
	Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.
	Provide a concluding statement or section.
	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
	Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
	Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
	Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
	Provide a concluding statement or section.
	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
	Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
	Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
	Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
	Provide a sense of closure.
PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING	
	With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
	With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 3 here.)
	With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE	
	Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
	Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

