



A Parent's Guide to the Essential Learnings

Grade 3

This document is not a complete or comprehensive representation of the entire curriculum. It is intended to provide parents with an overview of essential learnings in all subject areas. For additional information, consult your child's teacher.

Mathematics

- Reads, writes, orders, and compares whole numbers with up to four digits
 - Identifies place value to ten thousands
 - Writes decimals to the hundredths place to represent money
 - Renames fractions with denominator of 10 as decimals
 - Reads and writes mixed numbers in order to measure with a ruler
 - Reads and writes common fractions as well as decimals to the tenths place
 - Increases and decreases numbers by multiples of 10, 100, and 1000
 - Adds and subtracts numbers with three or more digits
 - Shows proficiency with multiplication and division facts through 10
 - Estimates quantities, measurements, and results of computation
 - Solves problems involving length, capacity, and weight
 - Reads and records time to the nearest minute
 - Identifies and creates congruent shapes
 - Locates lines of symmetry in plane figures
 - Creates and/or completes symmetric figures
 - Calculates area of rectangles by counting squares
 - Calculates perimeter of closed figures
 - Reads, discusses, interprets, and solves problems using pictographs, diagrams, and tables
 - Displays information using tallying and rank ordering
 - Applies patterns and relationships to basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts
 - Solves open sentences involving addition and subtraction of whole numbers (e.g., $47 - \square = 21$)
 - Recognizes, describes, extends, and creates a wide variety of patterns
 - Summarizes mathematical learning through writing and speaking, using appropriate mathematical language
 - Uses words or pictures to explain about processes used to solve Problems
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- Uses a variety of strategies and approaches to solve problems (draws

- pictures or diagrams, uses trial and error, makes tables, looks for patterns)
- Predicts and analyzes answers to addition, subtraction, and multiplication problems
- Makes change by counting or using monetary equivalencies (e.g., one quarter = two dimes and one nickel)

Reading

- Uses phonetic principles to read (e.g., word attack skills, initial letters, chunks, syllables)
- Understands meaning and decodes words using word parts (e.g. prefixes, suffixes, root words)
- Identifies and uses word relationships (e.g., synonyms, antonyms)
- Uses print rather than illustration to understand meaning
- Uses a variety of strategies to understand text (e.g., makes, confirms, and revises predictions; self-corrects; re-reads; reads-on; slows down)
- Builds vocabulary by responding to literature and interpreting context clues
- Reads silently for 25 minutes
- Understands elements of literary devices (e.g., personification, simile, metaphor)
- Identifies elements of literature (e.g., characterization, problem, solution, plot, cause/effect, setting, and point of view)
- Interprets and uses functional texts (e.g., advertisements, essays, notes)
- Uses different illustrative or text forms to interpret text
- Uses main idea and supporting details to draw conclusions and summarize in own words
- Predicts outcomes and draws logical conclusions
- Recognizes difference between literal and inferred meaning in text
- Uses logical sequence to accurately retell stories
- Compares and contrasts information within and among texts

- Reads and follows multi-step written direction
- Identifies, reads, and responds to a range of literary and nonfiction texts (e.g., fables, myths, functional letters, biographies, journals, encyclopedias)
- Reads a variety of literature representing different cultures, perspectives, and issues
- Identifies strengths and weaknesses as a reader; uses feedback to improve own reading

Writing

- Writes a complete paragraph
- Includes relevant details that support the main idea and topic
- Organizes text with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Uses transitional words and phrases (e.g., next, then, so, but, while) to connect ideas
- Organizes ideas into paragraphs with related details
- Uses similes and metaphors in writing
- Uses a variety of sentence lengths and types
- Writes in complete sentences
- Writes to gather information, to present information, to describe, and to write both personal and fictional narratives
- Cites sources when writing reports
- Organizes and plans writing (e.g., outlines, webbing, story mapping)
- Revises to clarify meaning, improve organization, and elaborate on ideas based on feedback from others and self-evaluation
- Edits own and others' writing for conventions explicitly taught
- Analyzes own writing for strengths and areas to improve
- Accepts feedback and selects suggestions to use

Capitalization, Punctuation, and Grammar

- Uses correct capitalization in proper nouns in book titles, friendly letters, simple quotations, titles, initials, and abbreviations
- Uses correct punctuation in friendly letters, simple quotations, and contractions
- Uses commas in a series

- Identifies simple subject and predicate
- Uses subject, object, and personal pronouns correctly
- Uses correct subject/verb agreement in simple and compound sentences
- Uses comparative and superlative forms of adjectives correctly
- Indicates paragraphs consistently by indenting or double spacing

Spelling

- Uses a dictionary and spell checker
- Uses a study method to learn and retain spelling of new words
- Uses spelling strategies and rules to spell words correctly

Handwriting

- Uses correct letter formation in manuscript writing
- Uses correct letter formation in cursive writing
- Produces legible text in manuscript and cursive

Communication 😊

- Uses steps of active listening (e.g., faces speaker, remains still, takes notes, is courteous, thinks about what is heard)
- Responds to presentation with relevant comments and questions
- Listens for a purpose (e.g., gains information through oral stories, instructions, reports, assemblies)
- Recognizes and interprets nonverbal cues
- Listens for, identifies main idea, and explains sequence
- Follows multi-step directions
- Asks questions to clarify meaning and gain information
- Selects information and gives opinions
- Makes brief, focused oral presentations on academic subjects
- Gathers information from a variety of materials and sources that relate to topic
- Follows a basic plan of organization
- Speaks with enough volume to be heard
- Speaks fluently to class
- Uses movement, gestures, and expressions to enhance communication
- Chooses creative ways to illustrate presentation
- Expresses own ideas, opinions, and point of view
- Identifies strengths of own presentation
- Identifies audience being targeted by ads

Science ☆

- Uses metric units (liter, meter, gram)

- Forms plural nouns correctly
- Explains how matter, energy and/or living things influence each other
- Describes how all organisms cause changes in the environment
- Creates, identifies and labels different types of charts, graphs, and tables
- Set up an experiment and graph results (e.g., yeast growth, mealworm, mold growth)
- Uses data to construct reasonable explanations and to generate new questions
- Identify items based on their characteristics (e.g., insects, rocks)
- Identifies how scientific and technological advances can affect the environment
- Explains how substances can change state
- Lists four different local habitats and geological features
- Understands fungi belong to a separate kingdom from plants
- Learns scientific process of investigating live specimens by collecting, observing, classifying, and labeling insects
- Understands and describes camouflage as a way insects adapt to their environment and protect themselves
- Explains important role insects play in the food chain

Social Studies (Focus: Community) 🇺🇸

History

- Interprets a timeline to understand the order of historical events in a community
- Identifies and describes important historical events that affect our lives today (Bill of Rights, Constitution, Declaration of Independence)
- Explores the contributions of various cultural groups to the community
- Compares and contrasts points of view from an historical event
- Analyzes how historical ideas affect one's life personally (respect for laws and rules, free speech)
- Distinguishes between historical fact and opinion

Economics

- Compares and contrasts the needs and wants of people, families, and communities
- Describes how the types of jobs available depend upon the location of the community
- Describes how people in our community are dependent on each other to meet their wants and needs (interdependence)

Geography

- Locates and describes volcanic activity on Pacific Rim
- Interprets political, relief, and historical maps
- Identifies and uses longitude and latitude and locates the equator on a map or globe
- States the pros and cons of people changing the earth's surface (altering waterways, setting fires)
- Observes and describes local bodies of water and land forms
- Describes how people adapt to the environment in meeting basic needs
- Demonstrates location of cardinal directions (N, S, E, W) and intermediate directions (NW, NE, SW, SE) on a map using compass rose

Civics

- Identifies the rights and responsibilities of citizens
- Distinguishes between local, state, and national government
- Examines how conflict and cooperation among people shape events (resolutions to playground conflicts)