

# Parents' Guide to Student Success in Science Third Grade

## Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

### Here are Some Things Your Child Will Be Working on in Third Grade

- Similarities and Differences between plants, animals and habitats found within geographic regions of Georgia
- Identifying the sun as a primary source of heat and light for the Earth
- Studying fossils as evidence of life millions of years ago
- Classifying rocks
- Learn to follow rules to stay safe



#### Keeping the Conversation Focused:

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything instead keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Grade 3, these include:

- How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- Places in the community that can help your child learn science

## Help Your Child Learn at Home

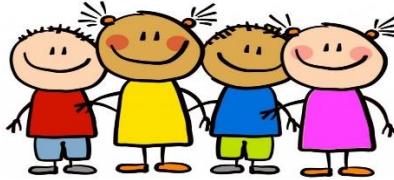
Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Ask your student what they learned today
- Check the homework and testing expectations so you can prepare your child
- Go on nature walks ☺

Resource: <http://www.pta.org/parents/> and <http://www.georgiastandards.org>

## Grade 3

### Nine Week Checkpoints for Parents and Students



Helpful Websites	
<a href="#">Science for Kids</a> <a href="#">Discovery Kids</a> <a href="#">NASA Climate Kids</a>	<a href="#">National Geographic Kids</a> <a href="#">NASA Kids' Club</a> <a href="#">Ask a Biologist</a>
First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <p><b><u>Rocks, Minerals and Soil</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classify rocks by their physical attributes (color, texture, capacity to retain water, and ability to support growth of plants) of soils and soil types (sand, clay, loam)</li> <li>Explain how water and/or wind have made changes to soil and/or rocks over time</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <p><b><u>Habitat, Adaptations and Environment</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify features and/or adaptations of organisms that allow for them to survive in their habitat</li> <li>Differentiate between habitats of Georgia (mountains, marsh/swamp, coast, Piedmont, Atlantic Ocean) and the organisms that live there</li> <li>Construct an explanation from evidence of why some organisms can thrive in their habitat and not in other habitats</li> </ul>
Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <p><b><u>Heat</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify different sources of heat energy</li> <li>Design and construct a device to increase and/or decrease the warming effect of sunlight</li> <li>Use thermometers to measure the effect of sunlight on various objects.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <p><b><u>Pollution and Conservation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect information and create records of sources and effects of pollution on plants and animals</li> <li>Can explore, research, and communicate solutions to protect plants and animals, conservation of resources and recycling materials</li> </ul>