

Parents' Guide to Student Success in *English Language Arts* 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 3rd Grade

- Reading closely to find main ideas and supporting details in a text
- Describing the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in stories (e.g., first, second, third; cause and effect)
- Comparing the most important points and key details presented in two books on the same topic
- Writing opinion essays, informational reports, and narrative stories.
- Asking and answering questions about information he or she hears from a speaker or while participating in classroom discussions, offering appropriate elaboration and detail that build on what others have said
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pausing to figure out what each word means
- Distinguishing the literal and nonliteral meanings of words, such as something's fishy and cold shoulder
- Spelling correctly and consulting dictionaries to clarify meanings of words



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 Third Grade, these include:

- Fluency
- Comprehension
- Writing

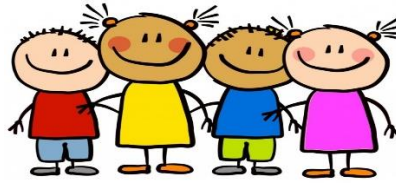
Help Your Child Learn at Home

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:

- Read to and/or with your child daily.
- Have your child write about what they have read.
- Utilize a word of the day/week to enhance vocabulary.
- Practice sight words daily using flashcards.

Third Grade

Nine Week Checkpoints for Parents and Students



Helpful Websites	
www.i-ready.com www.myon.com	www.newsela.com www.readworks.org
First Nine Weeks	Second Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions, referring explicitly to the text • Determine the main idea of informational texts • Retell the key details of a text and explain how they support the main idea • Retell stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures • Determine the central message, lesson, or moral of stories • Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases • Fluently read grade level texts • Write narrative stories 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. • Describe characters and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events. • Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases • Fluently read grade level texts • Write informational reports/essays
Third Nine Weeks	Fourth Nine Weeks
<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters in literary text • Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of an informational text • Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases • Fluently read grade level texts • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons 	<p><i>Students should know and be able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series) • Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic • Determine the meaning of unknown words and phrases • Fluently read grade level texts • Write narratives, informational reports/essays, and opinion pieces