



Family Resource Guide



THIRD GRADE





Welcome to Third Grade!

Purpose of the Guide

Students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools follow the state of North Carolina's expectations for what every student will know and be able to do by the end of their current grade level. This guide is designed to help you support your student by understanding those expectations, provide everyday activities to reinforce their learning at home and partner with their teachers throughout the school year.

This guide includes...



Key Skills for Reading and Math

Understand the most important things your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.



Questions to Ask Your Child

Engage in conversations with your child using these suggested reading and math questions.



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

Find sample questions and topics you might want to talk about with the teacher related to reading and math skills.



Learning Activities

Explore some easy ways you can support your child's learning important reading and math concepts and skills.



Words to Know

Learn some important words and acronyms used at school to "speak the same language".



Helpful Resources to Practice Skills at Home

Click the link to access a collection of reading and math resources aligned to your child's grade level.



LITERACY

Your child will develop the ability to write complete sentences and simple paragraphs with accurate spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. Through exploring texts, they will practice asking and answering questions independently, retelling stories, explaining key ideas, and connecting concepts with supporting text evidence. They will also enhance their vocabulary skills by determining word meanings in context and utilizing linking words and phrases to connect ideas effectively in their writing.



Key Skills

Learning to Read and Write:

- Match letters with sounds to read most words, including those with multiple syllables, suffixes, and prefixes.
- Write complete sentences and simple paragraphs about what they're learning, focusing on correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Read grade-level texts smoothly and expressively, aiming for a fluency rate of 80-140 words per minute.

Learning about the World through Text:

- Ask and answer questions, retelling events, explaining key ideas, and making connections between them, supported by text evidence.
- Figure out unknown words using context or tools like dictionaries and glossaries, especially those with multiple meanings or figurative language.
- Using linking words and phrases to connect ideas in writing.



Questions to Ask Your Child

- Why is it important to read smoothly and expressively?
- What can you do if you don't know the meaning of a word in a text?
- How do suffixes and prefixes help you understand longer words?



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

- What topics are my child learning about through reading? What should my child be able to understand, write, and talk about as a result of what they have read? Topics in history? Topics in science?
- Has my child mastered decoding single words and words with lots of syllables? If not, what supports will be provided to ensure that they are able to decode accurately and with automaticity?



Learning Activities

- Turn on the closed captioning while watching TV to allow your child to read along with the dialogue.
- Encourage your child each day to choose a book they want to read on their own. Reading lots of books over time is more important than the type of text.
- Have “book talk” conversations. Ask your child to share the important ideas in their own words and show you what part of the text provided this information.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.



MATH

Students are formally introduced to multiplication and division in third grade. Students come to understand multiplication as making equal groups and division as dividing a quantity into equal-size groups. Third graders solve one and two-step word problems about multiplication, division, and measurement concepts. Also students are formally introduced to fractions as numbers, develop an understanding of the unit fraction and its part-to-whole relationship, as well as discover how their work with fractions is an extension of their division work. Students understand connections between multiplication and the areas of shapes. For example, find the area of a room using floor tiles. Describe, analyze, and compare shapes like rectangles and squares. For example, explain that any shape with four sides can be called a quadrilateral.



Key Skills

- Solve problems involving the multiplication and division of one-digit numbers.
- Find the area of rectangles and perimeter of two-dimensional shapes (rectangles and squares).
- Collect data. Represent and interpret data using a scaled picture graph or bar graph.
- Estimate, add, and subtract within 1,000 (three-digit numbers).
- Multiply one-digit numbers by 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, and 90.
- Solve two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, and multiplication.
- Represent halves, thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths by separating a circle, rectangle, square, or number line into equal parts.
- Represent equivalent fractions using circles, rectangles, and number lines including fractions less than 1 and fractions equivalent to a whole number.
- Compare fractions that have either the same numerator or the same denominator.
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute. Find elapsed time within the same hour.
- Estimate and measure using quarter-inches, half-inches, inches, feet, yards, cups, pints, quarts, gallons, ounces, and pounds.



Questions to Ask Your Child

- How can I support multiplication at home?
- How can I support addition and subtraction fluency at home?
- What math models do third graders typically use?
- Does the school host parent/family night or curriculum night events so I can learn more about the math curriculum you are using?
- What problem types will my student need to be familiar with?
- How can I support my child to retell and represent one-step and two-step word problems?



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

- Multiplication and division (developing understanding, equal group projects, fact fluency, area projects, etc.)
- Comprehending, representing, and solving 1-step and 2-step word problems
- Developing fraction concepts (fair sharing, folding/cutting areas, cooking, projects, etc.)
- Measurement (tasks, activities, and projects)
- Addition and subtraction (tallying purchases, family game night using card and board games, ordering from menus and projecting costs, etc.)
- Helpful math websites or digital support



Learning Activities

- Multiplication Tic-Tac-Toe**
Player 1 rolls two dice and multiplies the numbers together. They write the equation in one of the spaces on a tic-tac-toe game board. Player 2 checks for accuracy of the multiplication equation. Switch roles. The game continues until one player gets three in a row.
- Multiplication Challenge**
Shuffle a deck of playing cards. Each player will draw two cards from the deck at a time and multiply the numbers on the two cards together. Have your child use $>$, $<$, or $=$ to write a comparison of the two products. The player who has the largest product gets to keep all four cards. Play until all of the cards are used. The player with the most cards wins!
- Close to 1,000**
Shuffle a deck of play cards with the face cards removed. Deal out 8 cards to each player. Each player will use any 6 cards to make two three-digit numbers that when added together have a sum that is close to 1,000 and then find their score by determining the difference between their total and 1,000. Each player will discard the 6 cards used to create the numbers and draw 6 new cards. After 5 rounds, each player will add up their scores. The player with the lowest score wins. (The game can be played with 6 cards with a goal of getting as close to 100 as possible to introduce your child to the game.)

Learning Activities continued

- Play games they learned at school or provided by their teacher that promote multiplication and division fact fluency.
- Write equal groups word problems representing multiplication and division situations then ask family members to solve their problems.
- Solve two-step word problems that involve addition, subtraction, and/or multiplication.



Words to Know

- Denominator** - The denominator is the bottom number in a fraction. It shows how many parts the item is divided into.
- Fluency** - Students are fluent when they display accuracy, efficiency, and flexibility. Students develop fluency by understanding and internalizing the relationships that exist between and among numbers.
- Number line** - A straight line with numbers placed at equal segments along its length.
- Numerator** - The numerator is the top number in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have.



Helpful Resources to Practice Skills at Home for Third Grade

- <http://bit.ly/CMSHomeSchoolConnect>