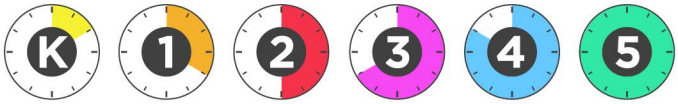
3

third grade

Cobb County School District
Parent's Guide to LEARNING in 3rd Grade



LEARNING

The Cobb County School District is committed to providing your child an academic experience that will develop his or her knowledge and skills at every grade-level and to ensuring a strong foundation is established for your child to reach his or her greatest potential. Our teaching is aligned with content standards and our teachers bring those standards to life for your child through various strategies designed to meet your child's learning strengths and needs.

In Cobb County classrooms, students are immersed every day in learning experiences based on exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking in all content areas including the core areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science; and in specialized content including Health, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Technology. Excellence in teaching guides your child's educational experience from Kindergarten to graduation and into life. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Third grade students are immersed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking throughout their day. Success in English Language Arts in third grade involves reading to understand fiction and non-fiction (informational) texts. Students enjoy a classroom with balanced literacy experiences such as small-group and guided reading, shared writing experiences, reading aloud, and listening. Emphasis is on communicating through speaking, listening, and writing. Appropriate use of grade-level grammar and language supports reading and writing.

MATHEMATICS

Third grade students investigate the concepts of multiplication and division, representing and comparing fractions, reasoning with quadrilaterals and measuring liquid volume and mass. Students use hands-on resources such as fraction squares, geoboards and rulers to conceptually understand the mathematics they are learning. Students engage in solving problems using data and pictorial representations. Critical thinking, math reasoning and problem solving help students to apply and explain strategies that they learn to real-world math experiences.

SCIENCE

Science in third grade centers on a hands-on, student-centered exploration of our natural world. Earth, Life and Physical Science are studied throughout the year, giving students opportunities to build their understanding of core ideas while developing scientific skills such as using models and constructing explanations. An exploration of rocks, minerals, fossils, and soil supports learning about Georgia habitats and the impact of pollution on the environment. Lastly, students investigate basic ideas involving magnets and heat as they build their understanding of the world.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Third graders study the origins of American democracy. Students look at expanding people's rights and freedoms. Through the lives of important Americans, students learn about the expansion of freedoms and the obstacles and social barriers the historical figures overcame. Students also learn about how the figures' lives were impacted by American culture and geography. Students locate five major rivers and two mountain ranges. Basic globe skills are introduced with a focus on latitude and longitude. The role of government, trade, and economics shows students the basics

PARENT TIPS: Reading

Daily reading as a family is an enjoyable and important way to grow a love of learning. Create time to read during breakfast or in the evening before bed. Share your own favorite childhood books and talk about why the book is one you still love. Visit your local library and take advantage of school book fairs and literacy events. By sharing what you love about reading and showing them how much it means to you by reading with them, students will see how important literacy is in their lives.

SPECIALS

Awareness of historic elements inspires 3rd graders in Visual Arts. Students use observation skills to support their art production and analyze and discuss the important role of art in historic periods and cultures. In Music, students continue to develop skills in singing and playing instruments while increasing their understanding of harmonies and notation. This provides opportunities for improvisation and creating simple compositions, along with evaluation and analysis of music. In Health, students explore circulatory and respiratory systems, healthy emotional responses and family-based conflict resolutions. In PE, students learn more about the importance of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle.

ONE TEAM ONE GOAL STUDENT SUCCESS

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Revised July 2016

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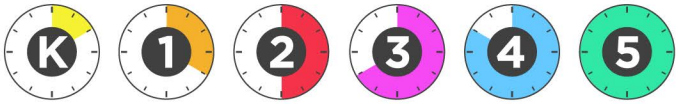
Parent's Guide to ASSESSING in 3rd Grade



ASSESSING

Your child will have a variety of classroom assessments that will aid his or her teacher in knowing how to provide the best possible instruction for your child. These assessments will also help you know how well your child is learning and what extra support may be needed. In addition, your child will participate in some standardized assessments that are used to gauge how well your child is doing in his or her grade level.

3rd graders take two standardized assessments first semester, the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and the IOWA. The CogAT is a norm-referenced test which measures reasoning and problem-solving skills in three different areas; verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal. The IOWA assessment is a norm-referenced test that measures academic achievement.

The state of Georgia requires that students in grades 3-5 participate in the annual administration of state assessments. The state assessment is called the Georgia Milestones Assessment System. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 5 will take an End of Grade (EOG) assessment as part of the Georgia Milestones. In math and language arts, the EOG will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The language arts EOG has a third section, which focuses on writing.

All students in grades K-9 participate in the universal screening process for reading and math using a digital math inventory and a digital reading inventory. The universal screener will measure math and reading progress three times a year.

TESTING IN 3RD GRADE

MARK THE CALENDAR: Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT): October
IOWA: October
3rd grade EOG assessment: April

QUESTION TYPES: Multiple-choice questions (called selected-response); Short answers (called constructed response); Extended response: The EOG has a writing section during which students write an extended response to a question derived from paired-passages students read.

PARENT TIPS: Assessment

Parents can support students in easing any concern or anxiety about assessment:

- Talk with your child about any tests or assessments.
- Explain that assessment is a natural and important part of any learning. Tests help students understand their thinking better and make improvements for better performance in the future.
- Remind your child to pay attention to the directions and to listen carefully as they are read. Encourage your child to take time to understand the questions before selecting an answer.
- Remind your child to take his/her time and check his/her work.
- A good night's rest is the best way to arrive focused on test day!

Remember that assessment is an important and helpful part of learning for students of all ages. Your support and involvement in your child's education is critical to success in school and in life. Research shows when parents play a key role in their child's learning, their child's achievement excels.

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