

THIRD GRADE

Core Classes

- Bible
 - We are committed to the study of God's Word in all our subjects and its application to our lives as the foundation for living a joyful, victorious Christian life. Daily Bible class is an essential part of spiritual development at FCS. We ultimately desire that every student discovers and strengthens a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and develops a biblical worldview.
 - Students read and study the Bible, sing Bible songs, memorize Scripture verses and discuss Christian character and missions.
 - Topics studied during Bible class include:
 - Joshua
 - Samuel and David
 - Elijah and Elisha
 - Esther
 - Daniel
 - Life of Christ including parables
 - Paul
 - Christian Heroes
 - All parents are welcome to attend our chapels for worship and sharing about God's Word and its application to our lives.
- Language Arts
 - Language arts is a foundational subject area, and we commit considerable time and attention to it on a daily basis. Third grade students, with their mastery of phonics and independent reading ability, begin to apply their reading skills in every subject area. Students also maintain their reading skills and explore literary concepts through a class reading and study of novels such as *Secret in the Maple Tree*, *The Courage of Sarah Noble*, *Encyclopedia Brown*, *Mystery in the Amazon Rainforest*, *Pocahontas and the Strangers*, and *Charlotte's Web*. Students complete their first independent book report in third grade.
 - In English, students thoroughly study the structure of sentences, including parts of speech, types of sentences, vocabulary, grammar, usage and mechanics. Opportunities are given regularly for students to write about a variety of topics and experience the complete writing process.
 - Spelling words are learned on a weekly basis and students are held accountable for using the words correctly in writing. Handwriting (cursive) is also taught and emphasized daily.
- Social Studies
 - History, geography, culture, economics, and current events are the foundation of the Social Studies program where students learn about God's providence in His world. Third grade topics of study include the Constitution, early presidents, Jefferson and moving West, the War of 1812, American democracy, and the Civil War. The continent study is South America.

- Science
 - The basic principles of the scientific method are illustrated during the year. Third graders specifically study several topics including warm- and cold-blooded animals; ecosystems; matter; soil, rocks, and minerals; the solar system; and cells, tissues, and organs.
- Mathematics
 - Third grade emphasis is placed in several key areas: addition and subtraction, data, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement, area and perimeter, and shapes.

Extracurricular

- Physical Education
 - In Physical Education class, offered twice each week, students learn to appreciate the abilities of the human body and are taught how to care for their bodies. Students also learn and practice skills in a variety of team, individual and lifetime sports.
- Fine Arts
 - Music and art are held once a week as a way to explore foundational elements of each unique art. Music teaches skills in the areas of rhythm, melody, tone color, form, style and harmony. Students apply previously learned music skills as they learn to play the recorder. Art works to progress students in line, shape, space, texture and color.
- Library
 - Students attend weekly library class where they develop in literary topics such as the parts of a book, authors and illustrators, listening skills, genres, research skills and overall literature appreciation. It also provides them the opportunity to expand their knowledge of the library and gain responsibility through returning and checking out books.
- Computer
 - Students receive training in hardware and technology basics, digital citizenship, research skills, word processing and presentation application. They explore various venues that are available to create digital projects and the methods they practice are used the classroom to enhance the learning of curriculum. They train and practice using digital resources safely, ethically, and morally to impact our world for Jesus Christ.
- Field Trips and Special Events
 - Field trips and special events are also a major part of our curriculum and are coordinated with the current curriculum units. These include Visual Arts Celebration, Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, and Field Day. Field trips include Stratford Hall, Fredericksburg Battlefield, and the Science Museum of Virginia.