**2017 - 2018**

**Third Grade Curriculum**

**General Studies**

English Language Arts

Third grade English Language Arts inspires students to refine their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students in third grade are exposed to a variety of genres and are challenged to think critically about the themes and the author’s purpose. Students are encouraged to write true stories, informational pieces, persuasive essays and speeches, editorials, fairy tales, poetry, and compare and contrast essays.

Third Grade Students Will:

* Critically analyze characters, text, plot, and setting.
* Write persuasive essays, informational pieces, true stories, editorials, how to essay, fairy tales, poetry, compare and contrast essays, and an independent writing project
* Apply a variety of sentence structures to writing.
* Be able to use vivid verbs, compound words, adjectives, adverbs, synonyms, antonyms, correct punctuation.
* Analyze author’s purpose, text structure, cause and effect, set a purpose, fact and opinion.

Classroom Activities may include but are not limited to:

* Literary circles
* Reading groups
* Peer review
* Direct instruction
* Teacher as coach
* Research

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Encourage their child to keep a journal.
* Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
* Encourage their child to read for a specified period of time each day.
* Ask your child to summarize a show or movie to improve critical thinking and increase comprehension.

Math

Third grade math is designed for all students to achieve mathematical proficiency through demonstration of math skills, concepts, and processes.

Third Grade Students Will:

* Acquire and use multiplication facts, strategies, and concepts.
* Demonstrate knowledge of number basics, place value, comparing numbers, and ordering numbers.
* Evaluate and describe data and graphs.
* Develop an understanding of addition and subtraction.
* Explain the use of money, personal finance and personal financial literacy.
* Apply skills to solve a variety of problems.

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* Math fact challenges
* Use of manipulatives to understand concepts
* Cooperative learning
* Discussion

What Can Parents Do?

* Discuss your child’s school day
* Encourage the use of numbers in daily life (baking, grocery shopping)
* Set high expectations for your child
* Provide a quiet place to study

Science

The Silver Academy prides itself on an innovative, creative, hands on science program that is designed to build on science concepts using real life experiences to enhance learning.

Third Grade Students Will:

* Learn properties of matter: solids, liquids, and gases.
* Explore the human body systems and functions
* Explore electricity
* Question the world around them
* Explore the solar system
* Understand the relationship between the sun and our skin

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* In class experiments
* Research and science projects
* Hands on cooperative sharing of ideas
* Writing and publishing scientific experiments and ideas

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Provide a quiet place for their child to study.
* Take children to science museums and point out scientific discoveries.
* Ask students to explain the material they learned in Science class.
* Model curiosity about and an appreciation of the natural world.

Social Studies

Third grade social studies at The Silver Academy revolves around inquiry into developing questions about the world communities, the history of communities, the role technology plays in changing communities, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

Third Grade Students Will:

* Learn about communities - what they are, how they differ, the different environments found in communities, and the history of the individual communities.
* Compare and contrast different communities.
* Understand how local governments function.
* Explore the rights and responsibilities of the citizens in each community.
* Learn to use encyclopedias, timelines, pictures, photographs, atlases, maps, and globes/

Classroom Activities May Include But Are Not Limited To:

* Reading and writing about their community.
* Creating and presenting individual and group projects.
* Viewing instructional videos.
* Participating in simulations and games that reinforce concepts learned.

What Can Parents Do?

Parents Can:

* Provide a quiet place for your child to study.
* Explore historical sites in the region and state.
* Discuss age appropriate community events and projects.

**Third Grade**

**Hebrew & Judaic Studies**

In third grade, in addition to the Judaic component, the TaL AM program focuses on the theme of success (Behatzlacha). Students discuss (in Hebrew) successful learning techniques that enable the student to obtain ownership and achieve independent learning and advancement in their general studies as well as Judaic studies.

Third grade includes the following subject units:

Behatzlacha (success in everyday life)

Third grade students will:

* Utilize the memory box to recollect what has been learned and retain new knowledge acquired.
* Review and discuss ways to promote successful learning and productive study.
* Discuss the concept of multiple intelligences and the effect on learning.
* Develop a strong relationship with the students of the virtual classroom, understanding their distinctive characteristics, hobbies, etc.
* Meet Ronen, the new student in the virtual classroom, and experience the process of integration and the significance of friendship and acceptance.
* Become active observers of the people and things surrounding them.

Shabbat Mevarchim:

Third grade students will:

* Review the central themes and concepts of Shabbat, and the mitzvot pertaining to Shabbat.
* Learn about Shabbat Mevarchim - the Shabbat during which we announce the coming new month with a blessing - through songs, games and a library book linking the Shabbat to a key concept relating to the holiday celebrated that month (when applicable).

The Holidays:

Each holiday unit opens with the memory box, which reminds the students what they learned in previous years, while adding new dimensions and elevating their knowledge of content and skills.

Third grade students will:

* Learn prayers and blessings specific to each holiday.
* Study the holiday’s biblical and historical background, and discuss the holidays using both contemporary and biblical Hebrew.
* Explore and experience ritual objects associated with each holiday and their meaning.
* Learn and discuss some rabbinic sources (from the Mishna and Talmud) and contrast them with the biblical texts.
* Integrate environmental knowledge into the discussion of Tu Bishvat, specifically the concept of machzorim - the cycles existing in our environment: the water cycle, the vegetation cycle, and the cycles of the week, month and year.
* Examine the protagonists' actions in the story of Chanukah and the Megillah using divergent thinking.
* Explore the concepts of Avdut (slavery) and Herut (freedom) in depth, examining their manifestations on our seder table, as well as in the Pesach Haggadah.
* Discuss the Ten Commandments and their significance in the children's' lives, as well as Tikun Leil Shavuot - the custom of Torah learning on the eve of Shavuot.
* Take a virtual tour of Israel, making 14 stops in different locations and examining each location through its biblical/historical context, as well as its present day reality.
* Learn and discuss the roles of Theodor Herzl and David Ben Gurion in the creation of the State of Israel, including the main principles of the Declaration of Independence.
* Link the principles in the Declaration of Independence to the rules studied in the Behazlacha unit for creating a successful class and maintaining successful learning, and to the Ten Commandments, stipulating the fundamental rules of conduct enabling a positive and productive life within society.

Torah:

Third grade students will:

* Continue the study of Sefer Bereshit, focusing on portions Chayei Sarah, Toldot, and Vayetze.
* Continue to to develop Biblical literacy and the acquisition of Biblical Hebrew.
* Apply Torah reading skills.

Prayer (Tefilah)

Third grade students will:

* Learn how to pray the Amidah, the central prayer of each daily service.
* Explore the structure and meaning of the Amidah and its relevance to their lives.

Weekly Torah Portion (Parashat Hashavua)

Students study the weekly Torah portion in accordance with the Jewish calendar: Bereshit, Shmot, Vayikra, B'Midbar and Dvarim.

Third grade students will:

* Actively learn about each Torah portion by solving an illustrated riddle.
* Learn the highlights of the story of the parasha, including key words.
* Study a central message linked to the riddle.
* Play a game focusing on the parsha's keywords and central message.
* Contemplate the central message and it’s relevance to their lives.