

## **RATIONALE**

The basic activities in an effective English Language Arts program is to equip students to combine a variety of sequentially acquired skills to derive meaning from text and other forms of communication. The third grade teacher guides students through an ELA program to help them learn, practice, apply, and integrate specific skills so that they can become independent readers and writers. However, students need to go beyond basic activities to become proficient readers, creative writers, and expressive speakers who benefit from the pleasures, inspirations, and knowledge gained from knowing how to read and effectively communicate.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The third grade ELA course has four main components: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. The ELA curriculum provides the learner with a foundation on which to build. Various approaches are used to integrate all components.

## **IMPORTANT LEARNER OUTCOMES**

Reading:

1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of key details in literature and informational texts
2. Determine the main idea and key details from an informative text
3. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator, those of the characters, or from the author of an informative text
4. Compare and contrast stories written by the same author or two texts on the same topic
5. Use text features and search tools to locate information to a specific topic
6. Know and apply third grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
7. Read and comprehend literature and informational texts in the grades 2-3 text complexity band fluently and proficiently

Written Communication:

1. Write opinion and narrative pieces and informative/explanatory texts that introduces a topic, develops a topic with facts and details, and includes a conclusion
2. Use technology to produce and publish writing
3. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic
4. Write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening:

1. Participate in collaborative discussions in an one-on-one, group, and teacher-led settings
2. Determine the main idea and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in media and other formats
3. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker
4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience using facts and details and speaking clearly in coherent, complete sentences

Language:

1. Use the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
2. Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
4. Determine the meaning of unknown words based on grade 3 reading and content

## **EVALUATION**

Third grade students will be evaluated primarily through objective testing which includes daily assignments, classroom activities, written assignments, standardized tests, Benchmark assessments, and MAP.

