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The mission of The Birches Academy is to cultivate a learning community that promotes excellence in core academics and the arts while valuing the individual qualities and strengths of each child.

Grade 3 at a Glance

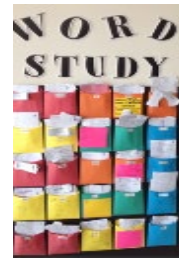
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The language arts curriculum is aligned to the ELA Common Core (<http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/>), which outlines grade-level expectations in the form of standards. The grade-specific standards are categorized as reading, writing, language & speaking and listening. Students engage in a variety of activities while building language arts skills through an arts integration approach to learning.

The teachers at Birches Academy utilize a variety of instructional resources and strategies to meet the needs of all learners. The instructional resources include: *Six Traits of Writing*, *Benchmark's Writers Workshop* and the *Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention System*. The strategies include mini-lessons, small group instruction, independent reading, a guided reading program and the six traits writing process. Students enrolled at Birches Academy of Academics and Art can expect to progress through the grades while developing proficiency in all four areas of the Common Core.

Overview of Expectations

- Decode and analyze words.
- Recognize common prefixes, root words and suffixes.
- Read with accuracy, expression and comprehension.
- Learn to use a table of contents or index.
- Explore the use of compare and contrast
- Continue to write stories and summarize with details.
- Understand basic rules of grammar.
- Determine when to use a comma, period or question mark.
- Engage in a teacher guided writing project.
- Make short in class presentations.



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MATHEMATICS

The mathematics curriculum is aligned to the Mathematics Common Core (<http://www.corestandards.org/Math/>) with a focus on concept development, big ideas and essentials of understanding. The Mathematics Common Core is comprised of strands and specific grade-level standards that define what students should know and be able to do. The grade 3 strands include: operations & algebraic thinking, numbers & operations in base ten and fractions, measurement & data and geometry. The instructional resource in grades 1 through grade 6 is Pearson *EnVision Math*.

Teachers combine instruction with hands-on activities where students begin to develop a conceptual understanding of foundational mathematics, learn basic computational skills, engage in practice and apply knowledge to solve problems. The instructional approach allows for the daily reinforcement of basic skills as students gain a greater understanding of each strand and demonstrate proficiency in grade-level expectations. Based on assessment, students may engage in advanced mathematical studies consistent with the learning progression.

Overview of Expectations

- Solve problems using multiplication and division.
- Expand operational skills to 100.
- Perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Explore fractions, and gain an understanding of fractions as part of a whole number.
- Develop problem-solving skills in measurement, volume & mass determination and time.
- Distinguish between area and perimeter, and solve problems for each.

$$31 + 15 =$$

$$21 - 11 =$$



2/3

1/2

Point to the *perimeter*



Circle the *area*



5/8

SCIENCE

The science curriculum is aligned to the Next Generation of Science Standards (<http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>), a framework for K-12 Science education developed through a collaborative process. The framework is comprised of three disciplinary areas including physical science, life science, and Earth & space science where instruction is guided by grade-level performance expectations. A fourth area—engineering, technology and applications of science—identifies performance expectation by grade span.

The focus of study in grade 3 is the Earth, its structure and landforms, biomes and ecosystems. Students gain a perception of the world around them, where knowledge and understanding become the underpinnings for socially responsible and caring young adults. Science instruction combines classroom discussion, hands-on activities, experiments and research. The science instructional resource, *Pearson Interactive Science*, provides for a blended learning experience and features write-in student modules along with an e-learning digital path.

Overview of Expectations

Physical Science

- Identify the effects of forces on the motion of an object.
- Make observations and/or measurements of an object's motion
- Explore the relationship between electric and magnetic forces and its effects on objects.



Life Science

- Describe the lifecycle of living things.
- Observe a variety of fossils and make connections between the organism and where it once lived.

Earth and Space Science

- Describe seasonal weather conditions for New Hampshire.
- Compare the climate in New England to that of other parts of the country.
- Identify extreme weather conditions and how to stay safe during a hurricane or tornado.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum is aligned to the New Hampshire State Curriculum Framework for Social Studies (http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/social_studies/documents/frameworks.pdf). The Framework is divided into five content strands including civics, economics, geography, New Hampshire and United States history, world history and contemporary issues. Instruction combines classroom discussion, project-based learning and current topics in history and research.

Overview of Expectations

Civics and Government

- Understand that the United States has a system of government based on the ideals of equal rights and tolerance.
- Describe the three main branches of government and the function of each.
- Identify the organization of the New Hampshire state government.
- Explain how laws and policies are made at the local and state levels.
- Describe the rights of citizens as outlined by the Constitutions of New Hampshire and the U.S.



Geography

- Identify the distribution of ecosystems; make inferences to degrees latitude north and south of the equator.
- Describe the food chain in an ecosystem.
- Investigate human impact on an ecosystem.

U.S. and NH History

- Identify political figures in the development of the New Hampshire government.
- Describe various celebrations and holidays in New Hampshire.
- Identify important monuments, symbols and government documents of New Hampshire.
- Describe the relationship between Native Americans and European settlers.



World History

- Understand the contribution of ethnic and religious groups to New Hampshire and culture.
- Recount important events of the American Revolution, and the impact on life in the United States.
- Understand and explain why populations of people came to the United States.
- Identify the art, folktales and architecture of three influential societies.



ART

The Art program provides students with an introduction to the arts and art forms. Students build on vocabulary, the color wheel, mixing colors and making inferences between color and emotions or moods. Mediums, textures and artist tools continue to be of importance to the further study of art. Teachers work collaboratively with the art teacher to give students every opportunity to express thoughts and ideas through the arts.

Overview of Expectations

Colors and the Color Wheel

- Explore the primary colors—red, blue, green and yellow.
- Mix colors to make orange, purple, green and other colors.
- Correlate color to mood and emotion.

Painting

- Manipulate basic shapes; create figures and paint to reflect a mood.
- Research Aboriginal life and practice the dot painting technique.

Printmaking

- Create incised, stamps, collagraphs and monoprints.

Construction Studio

- Experiment with different materials and attachment in sculpture.

Collage

- Create a map of New Hampshire using the techniques of collage.
- Create a collage based on a fable or fairy tale.

Drawing

- Explore patterns and create figures using techniques in drawing.

Clay Exploration

- Experiment with clay, and create a human action figure.
- Create coil pots inspired by Mexican potter, Juan Quezada.



MUSIC

The music program is designed to instill a love of music and an introduction to the art of music. Students continue the study of music through listening, moving to rhythm, singing songs and music theory. Students attend general music once per week and engage in a variety of performances. Students in grade 3 learn to play the ukulele. Teachers collaborate, ensuring that students have every opportunity to express thoughts and ideas through music and the arts.

Overview of Expectations

- Continue to develop the independent singing voice, using unison, rounds and partner songs.
- Reading and writing melodic and rhythmic notation.
- Explore music concepts and vocabulary.
- Create sounds with strings and play the ukulele.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students participate in age appropriate, safe and effective physical activities based on the New Hampshire K-12 Physical Education Curriculum Guidelines. The program encourages students to perform a variety of physical activities that focus on building motor skills and the qualities of movement. A pre and post "Pacer" assessment is conducted to determine cardiovascular endurance. This assessment demonstrates student growth and indicates what students need to improve on and/or maintain for physical health and well-being.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Grade 3 foreign language program introduces students to the Spanish language through conversational activities, stories, music, art, culture, and children's games. Emphasis will be placed on listen and speaking skills.

iHola!



This content has been curated from the Common Core ELA and Math, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and the K-12 Social Studies NH Curriculum Framework (July 2014).