



Zion Lutheran School

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Zion Lutheran School Third Grade Overview

Religion: Third graders use Voyages: Exploring God's Word by CPH. This series is a chronological study of Bible stories starting with creation and ending with Paul's missionary journeys. The third graders memorize Bible verses, the 10 Commandments, and the Articles. Each Wednesday students attend a school chapel service. Prayer and discussions of God's Word are shared throughout the day.

Reading: Third graders use the Scott- Foresman Reading Series. Students are introduced to writings by a variety of great authors in the areas of fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, poetry, and biographies. Comprehension and analytical skills, as well as vocabulary and phonics skills, are reinforced.

Phonics: Third grade students use the Scott -Foresman phonics lessons that accompany each lesson in reading. They study compound words, digraphs, contractions, plurals, prefixes, suffixes, diphthongs, synonyms, and antonyms.

Handwriting: Third grade students use the Zaner – Bloser Handwriting Series. During the year the students are introduced to lower and uppercase cursive letter formations. By the month of May, students are required to write all assignments in cursive.

Spelling: Third grade students use the spelling series that accompanies the Scott – Foresman reading series. Spelling patterns and practice in context help students spell better. Weekly tests include a list of 15 words. Challenge words are included in the lists each week for those students already familiar with the basic list. Sentences are written each week to practice using these words.

English: Third graders use the Shurley English Series. Students apply grammar skills such as punctuation, capitalization, usage, parts of speech, and composition skills to their writing. They are introduced to the two and three point expository paragraph as well as the persuasive paragraph.

Mathematics: Third graders will be using the Houghton Mifflin Mathematics series beginning in the fall of 2007. This series introduces students to math concepts and problem-solving strategies. Students learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, geometry, estimation, place value, measurement and graphing, time, and money. Third graders also begin to learn their multiplication tables by memory.

Science: Third graders use the McGraw-Hill Science series to introduce scientific discovery. The students study life cycles of living organisms, forms of energy, weather, the solar system, and plants.

Social Studies: Third grade students use the Scott-Foresman “Communities” series. Students learn map and globe skills, as well as chart and graph skills. The origin of many American communities is discussed.

Art: Third grade students have art instruction each week. The focus of the art program is not only to teach the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, and texture), but also to foster creativity. Seasonal projects are incorporated into the program.

Music: Students have music instruction for an hour each week. Music involves singing, listening, and playing simple instruments. They learn a variety of Christian songs and hymns during music class and devotion time in the classroom. The children sing at Zion Lutheran Church once a month. All students prepare and present a Christmas program as well as a Spring Musical.

Physical Education: Third graders have P.E. twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance, and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Children participate in the President’s Physical Fitness testing each spring.

Computer: Third graders go to the computer lab twice a week. The main emphasis is on typing skills with home positioning of the hands and practice drills for touch-typing. Educational activities are also used in reading, math, and English to reinforce skills. The internet is used for several projects throughout the year as a means of research.

Cultural Experiences: Students go on field trips that are related to units and learning activities in class. To enhance our study of the Pilgrims and Indians, the students visit Dickson Mounds in Lewiston to learn more about Indian culture. When the third graders read Charlotte’s Web as a reading unit, we attend a theater performance in Bloomington, Springfield, or Peoria. Other trips are taken during the year as the opportunity arises.