Mallinckrodt Academy of Gifted Instruction

Mallinckrodt's curriculum framework emphasizes a conceptually challenging, in-depth, and complex content within cognitive, affective, aesthetic, social, and leadership domains as recommended by National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) *2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards.* Differentiation, content-based acceleration, and enrichment are interventions implemented for our high ability learners. In addition to providing project based learning experiences, Mallinckrodt's Character Education initiative is Dragon P.R.I.D.E.

Third Grade Curriculum at a Glance

ELA: The 3rd grade utilizes grade level and reading level appropriate novels for novel studies and literature circles. Novel studies are a way for the whole class to read and become engaged in the same book while practicing accountable discussions, answering questions, applying reading standards, learning new vocabulary and making connections between self, text and each other. In literature circles, small groups of students gather together to discuss a piece of literature in depth. The discussion is guided by students' response to what they have read. Each week students have jobs they are responsible for during the group's discussion. Below are a list of the standards covered during both literature circles, novel studies and writing.

Reading:

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers.
- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry.
- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, fairy tales, and poetry from diverse cultures.
- Determine the central message, lesson, or moral, and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- Describe characters in a story, and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.
- Describe how each successive part of a story, drama, or poem builds on earlier sections.
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts.
- Summarize text, and include appropriate details from the text.

Writing:

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.
- Write opinion and persuasive pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Science: Science is the only subject that is not taught at an accelerated level. The academic year is divided into trimesters for this subject, and these correspond to three major units of study: Adaptation and Change; Force and Motion; and Weather Patterns. Throughout the year, scientific study requires students to determine cause and effect relationships, work with models, ask questions and define problems, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, construct explanations, and communicate information clearly. Students benefit from weekly science enrichment lessons from the gifted specialist, garden lessons through Seed to Stem (Gateway Greening), and lessons in the science lab. The 3rd grade students produce a class science fair project.

Social Studies: The major units of study include: Map Skills *(Elements of Geographical Study and Analysis)*; Native Americans, Explorers, Colonial Life, U.S. Government *(Principles and Processes of Governance Systems)*; Supply and Demand; the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis & Clark, Pioneer Life, and Westward Expansion *(Missouri, United States and World History)*. Students learn to solve problems and resolve conflicts *(Relationships of Individuals and Groups to Institutions and Traditions)*. They also use and evaluate primary and secondary sources, identify and use media resources, select graphic and auditory aids, and create artifacts, maps, and timelines *(Tools of Social Science Inquiry).*

PBL (Project/Problem Based Learning): PBL helps students develop skills for living in a knowledge based, technological society. PBL's encourage students to work for an extended period investigating and/or responding to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem or challenge. Most of our PBL's are based around the social studies and science standards, but integrate math and ELA standards as well. Students learn how to take initiative and responsibility, build their confidence, solve problems, work in teams, communicate ideas, manage themselves more efficiently, use technology to research, create products, and think critically and creatively. Students often have the chance to interact with people within their community when we have guest speakers or go on field trips related to our PBL.

Technology: All students use computers and ipads in the classrooms to enhance learning through technology. Students use the computers for researching and accessing hands-on applications to enrich learning such as www.thatquiz.org, www.abcya.com, and Gizmos (www.explorelearning.com). All 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students have iPads available as learning, teaching, and product tools. IPads are another important component of research done by students. They are also used to access the Envision math series online (www.pearsonrealize.com). Each classroom has a Promethean board and a document camera to project and display visual components of lessons across the curriculum.

Mathematics: Students use Envision 2.0 for their math series.

- **Operations and Algebraic Thinking:** Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division. Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division. Multiply and divide within 100. Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.
- **Numbers and Operations:** Use place value understanding and properties of operations to solve problems with multi-digit whole numbers.
- **Numbers and Operations-Fractions:** Develop understanding of fractions as numbers, find equivalent fractions, and compare fractions. Add and subtract fractions.
- **Measurement and Data:** Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects. Represent and interpret data. Understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition. Recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures. Measure, construct, and deconstruct angles.
- **Geometry:** Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties. Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.
- **Mathematical Practices:** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Reason abstractly and quantitatively. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. Use appropriate tools strategically. Attend to precision. Look for and make use of structure. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Some of this year's enrichment activities for 3rd Graders:

- **Field Trip to the St. Louis Science Center**
- **Field Trip to Laumeier Sculpture Park (Study Angles, scale, proportion and balance made by the sculptures in relation to nature.)**
- **Native American Museum**
- **Field Trip to Cahokia Mounds**
- **Field Trip to the Zoo (Ecosystem Study)**
- **Field Trip to the Sheldon**
- **Famous Missourian Wax Museum**
- **Field Trip to St. Charles for firsthand experiences relating to Missouri history**
- **International Fair**

Third Grade Teachers: Christine Brown and Victoria Vandeveer

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