Kennard CJA Third Grade Curriculum

Kennard’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, Kennard’s Character Education initiative is Tiger Families.

Third Grade Curriculum at a Glance

Reading:

*College of William & Mary Center for Gifted Education Jacob's Ladder* which targets reading comprehension skills in high ability learners.

- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths 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.
- Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories.
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2–3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.
- Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Identify and know the meaning of the most common prefixes and suffixes. Decode words with common Latin suffixes. Decode multisyllable words. Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.

1
Writing
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
- 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.
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
- Gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear sequences.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Mathematics
- **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.
- **Number and Operations:** Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- **Number and Operations-Fractions:** Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.
- **Measurement and Data:** Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects. Represent and interpret data. Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition. Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.
- **Geometry:** Reason with shapes and their attributes.
- **Mathematical Practices:** Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Reason abstractly and quantitatively. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. Model with mathematics. Use appropriate tools strategically. Attend to precision. Look for and make use of structure. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Social Studies: focus is the state of Missouri, its geography and demographics, with some history.

Science: Class focuses on States of Matter; Earth, Sun and Moon, Life Cycles, and Weather. Students work in the Science Lab to create a group science project. Science projects are optional for individuals. Classrooms incorporate a PBL unit on the rainforest.

Technology: all 3rd and 4th grade students have iPads available as learning, teaching, and product tools. iPads are an important component of any research done by students. All students have access to additional training and technology based enrichment in the Computer Lab.
Enrichment Activities for 3rd Graders:

- **A PBL Economics unit** with each classroom taking part in a different culminating event. One being a comprehensive economic unit where students learn to run a business. Students plan and hold a bake sale. Students apply and interview for jobs associated with the sale, such as clerks, advertising reps, copy writers, bookkeepers. They learn about and create advertisement, inventory, supply and demand, etc. This unit includes math, reading, writing, social studies, character education, performance skills, art, and music. Proceeds go to charity. Another room will complete the economics unit and learn these concepts by setting up a “class store” for kids to earn “money” and purchase computer time, parties, movies, and other activities. Last but not least, the third class will research hunger and create charts and graphs to present their findings to the school, and then host a canned food drive and donate the proceeds to a local food pantry.

- **Brain Investigations** presentation and activity by Washington University students in classrooms. – Students learn about the parts and processes of the brain, and get to touch a real brain. They then take part in hands-on activities related to the functioning of the brain.

- **Play Writing** as a continuation of the Project Based Learning unit and community service project, students will research rainforest animals and then turn that research into a play which will be written, directed, and performed by the students and teacher. Students will take a field trip to a retirement home and perform the play for the residents and later that day, they will perform for pen pals at another school in the district.

- **The Poetry Café** is the culminating event of the poetry unit for one or more of the classes.

- **Math Enrichment** is held once per week, teaching the *Equations* game. *Equation* is an algebraic problem solving game that addresses math standards through middle school. Culminating activity is a grade level tournament in December and a field trip to regional contests in the spring for high achieving students.

- **LEGO Robotics**- Students learn to build and program Lego Mind storms EV3 robots. They use the scientific method to ask questions, make hypotheses, run experiments, collect data, and draw conclusions.

- **Notable Missourians** – Students will research notable Missourians and collaborate with grade-level partners to create a “wax museum” to display their findings.

- **MAP Triathlon** - Third grade teachers will host a MAP review, with students taking part in review activities in all three classrooms.

- **Drama Enrichment** classes teach elements of drama through games and activities. Students practice performance skills and engage in two performances during the year.
These are a few of our accomplishments from last year:

- Rise in state testing scores led Kennard to be a top ranking elementary school in Missouri.
- Multiple ribbons at Queeny Park Science Fair.
- First place medals in regional *Equations* Competitions.
- Raised $1200 for “Children in need” and “Operation Food Search” through service learning projects.

If you have additional questions later, please visit our websites where you can find answers to too many frequently asked questions:

Sincerely,

*Third Grade Teachers: Carolyn Recke, Heather Perniciaro, and Stephanie O’Brien*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kennard CJA</th>
<th><a href="http://www.kennardcja.com">www.kennardcja.com</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saint Louis Public Schools</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slps.org">www.slps.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>