

# Preview of *Coming Attractions*

## First Marking Period - Grade Three

***Welcome to third grade! It will be a year filled with excitement as your child moves upstairs with “the big guys” – old and new friends, new teachers, and of course lots of new and challenging curriculum! Right now, you and your child probably have a million and one questions about what students will be doing this year. Here’s what you can expect to see the first quarter of third grade.***

### Reading

During the first half of the marking period, our main reading focus will be **Reading for Literary Experience** (fiction). As we read both in a large group and smaller guided reading groups, we will talk about story structure – characters, setting, problem, plot, solution, and story endings. Also, we will try to enhance our comprehension by making personal connections to the story and/or relating ideas from the story to other books we have previously read.

Later, the reading focus will begin to shift to **Reading to Be Informed** (non-fiction). Students will rely on text features such as a glossary, index, and table of contents to locate and help them comprehend information. Reading skills to be focused on include cause and effect relationships, comparing and contrasting information, questioning skills, determining the importance of ideas, and identifying the main idea or theme of the non-fiction text.

**Vocabulary** is very important to fluent readers. Throughout the first quarter, children will work to increase their reading vocabulary through the study of root words and prefixes. They will also spend time developing vocabulary through the use of concept mapping, word sorts, and context clues.

### Writing

Writing is a very important third grade skill! Using written communication, children are called upon to express personal ideas, demonstrate comprehension, and communicate thought processes both on classwork and formal assessments.

The main writing focus for the first marking period will be **Writing for Personal Expression**. Children will be using writer’s notebooks to accumulate ideas, memories, and other topics that can later serve as resources for stories. As students write those stories, they will go through the following process: drafting, revising, peer conferencing, editing, and finally publishing and sharing the work with their classmates.

Children will also develop and practice skills to help them answer questions through the use of a **BCR** (Brief Constructed Response). This important skill is required as students are called upon to explain ideas and processes on class work across all content areas as well as standardized assessments including county math unit tests and the Maryland State Assessment.

Included in the curriculum for writing are explorations in spelling and handwriting. The students just can't wait to learn the entire alphabet in cursive!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math

Unit One focuses on the study of patterns and number relationships in place value, addition and subtraction, and data analysis. This unit will last 9 weeks - almost the entire first marking period!

**Place Value** Students will learn to represent three and four digit numbers in three different ways – standard form (328), expanded form ( $300+20+8$ ), and word form (three hundred twenty-eight). They will correctly read and write numbers up to and including 10,000 as well as compare ( $9,352 < 9,532$ ) and correctly order them in both increasing and decreasing sequences (5,864; 6,548; 6,854). Students will also investigate patterns in hundreds charts.

**Addition and Subtraction** Students will learn to round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, and 1,000 and use their rounding skills to estimate sums and differences in problems. They will use addition and subtraction regrouping to solve problems consisting of three digits. We will practice, practice, practice the rapid recall of basic facts to improve our accuracy and fluency!

**Data Analysis** Students will be required to interpret patterns and describe them as repeating, decreasing, or increasing. Information will be gathered and read in a variety of ways including pictographs, tables, bar graphs, and double bar graphs. Students will use coordinate graphing to organize data and plot it on a simple grid.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Unit One in fourth grade math focuses on the study of place value, data analysis, and geometry. This unit will last 9 weeks - almost the entire first marking period!

**Place Value** Students will learn to represent seven digit numbers in three different ways – standard form (1,306,879), expanded form ( $1,000,000 + 300,000 + 6,000 + 800 + 70 + 9$ ), and word form (one million, three hundred six thousand, eight hundred seventy-nine). They will correctly read and write numbers up to and including 1,000,000 as well as compare ( $209,352 < 209,532$ ) and correctly order them in both increasing and decreasing sequences (115,864; 116,548; 116,854).

**Data Analysis** Students will learn to find the mean, median, and mode of a set of data. They will learn to create and analyze line plots as well as double bar graphs and line graphs. They will learn to choose the appropriate graph to display data (ex - line graphs are designed to record data over time).

**Geometry** Students will identify lines, rays, and angles. They will classify quadrilaterals according to the number of sides, number of angles, and types of angles contained in each. They will identify the number of faces, edges, and vertices contained in geometric shapes.

**Does it sound like a lot to do in only a few short months? Here's how you can make a difference! We reinforce class work lessons through homework assignments. Please offer help to your child...but not too much help! Let your child attempt to independently complete the homework. Afterwards, check the work and circle the problems that need to be looked at again. Practice makes perfect! As always, if you have questions about class work or follow-up assignments, please contact us!**

**Working together, we can make this a great first quarter!!**

*The Third Grade Team*