



# THIRD GRADE



"One rainy Sunday when I was in the third grade, I picked up a book to look at the pictures and discovered that even though I did not want to, I was reading. I have been a reader ever since" ~ Beverly Cleary



Third Grade at Covenant marks a new stage in the Grammar School journey. This year begins the intermediate grades and is characterized by greater independence. Third graders are fluent readers, confident writers and have the mathematics foundation necessary to become proficient problem solvers. By combining hands-on learning with classical methods of direct instruction, repetition, recitation, memorization and repeated application, our third graders will use their solid skills to grow as students who are now responsible for the outcome. Third graders take greater responsibility for their own education and assume the posture of a life long learner.



If you walked by the Third Grade Classroom you might see...

- A diagram of a “Paragraph Sandwich” on the wall, a fun imagery tool to help students understand and remember the important elements of a paragraph.
- Students, working individually and in small groups, are now writing for the purpose of communication across the curriculum, practicing cursive letter formation, writing paragraphs, short essays and stories that make a point and exercising their growing skills of literacy.
- A group of children reading fluently together, answering questions focused on their use of strong comprehension strategies. Children are now reading to learn rather than learning to read. Children are immersed in the joy of great literature, both classic and contemporary, including Charlotte’s Web and Stone Fox.
- A student is dressed as Benjamin Franklin to present his book report based on the biography he has read. Children are taught how to write summaries to capture the important aspects of a famous person’s life. Students learn the importance of writing bold beginnings, mighty middles, and exciting endings in paragraphs.
- Children reciting jingles which help them master grammar terminology; the teacher is diagramming a sentence thus introducing the students to the many parts of speech that make up our written and spoken language.
- Daily observations being noted by the students using the thermometer, anemometer and weather vane instruments they constructed as part of their science curriculum on weather. Children discover the wonders of God’s world as they begin to explore the steps of the scientific process: forming a hypothesis, conducting an experiment, making observations, recording data, drawing conclusions, and presenting results. Other units of study could include sound, the animal kingdom, and chemistry.
- A group of children dramatizing their understanding of a command spoken in Latin, as they get introduced to the vocabulary, grammar and word components of this classical language.
- Students engrossed with designing arrays using beans and pasta, to demonstrate their understanding of multiplication. On a desk nearby lies a “Gross Bug” book made by students who use number and word sentences to capture their knowledge of multiplication, with bug legs and number of bugs as the factors. Building on prior years’ knowledge, Singapore Math strategies are being taught for complex problem solving.
- Children sitting on the floor listening to a Bible story and discussing how the truths revealed relate to their life as 3rd graders. Hands raised, students are encouraged to share their understanding of the story, the teacher imparting her wisdom; perhaps today the message is about striving to always do your best, be it in spelling tests, handwriting, a sport, or helping others. Devotions, prayer, and memorizing scripture verses are also part of the morning meeting.
- Children embarking on the great story of world history as the study the ancient cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and India begins. The third graders engage in writing using the forms of ancient writing including cuneiform and hieroglyphs. While focusing on important leaders, inventions, religious beliefs and daily life, students are able to compare and contrast their lives with these ancient cultures.
- Children laughing, running, climbing, and learning to play together daily through both organized and free outdoor play.