

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

The Discipline Program at LES emphasizes respect and responsibility in all areas. The Luverne School System also has a responsibility which goes beyond the educational program by exercising every precaution to safeguard and control pupils while on the school premises, when using school transportation, and school related activities away from the school grounds. Students are issued Stop and Thinks for minor misbehaviors. These Stop and Think tickets are sent home to inform parents of the infraction. More serious behavior concerns are sent to the principal with an Office Referral.

COMMUNICATION

Parent involvement and home/school communication is important for every child's success. LES has established several ways to facilitate communication between home and school. A Friday Folder is sent home at the end of each week. This folder includes our school's weekly newsletter as well as permission slips, lunch letters and classroom papers. This folder should be returned each Monday. Parents can send notes and lunch money back to school in this folder. Each teacher has a voice mail and an email account. Parents can send and leave messages at any time. Our district's web site is also a great source of information. There are links to teachers' web pages as well as our monthly Events Calendar and our Weekly Messages. Parents are also encouraged to use the JMC Parent Access to check their child's lunch account balance and attendance record.

TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS

Each school year, students in third grade will take the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments provided through Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA). We give students MAP tests to determine their instructional level and to measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics, reading, and language usage. The computerized assessments dynamically adapt to each student's achievement level, providing precise results for every student, independent of grade level.

The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are given every spring to measure how well students have mastered the state math and reading standards. The information gathered from these tests chart the progress of schools and districts over time, generate information for school improvements, and allow for comparisons of schools in Minnesota. In addition, the district is able to make decisions about curriculum and instruction to provide the best education possible for your child.

The mission of Luverne School District #2184, in cooperation with family and community, is to be a proactive leader providing quality educational opportunities for all ages in a positive learning environment while meeting the challenges of a changing world through a continuing commitment to excellence.

THIRD GRADE

A Parent's Guide To Third Grade



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READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

LES has adopted the Pearson Reading Street curriculum and Zaner Bloser Writing curriculum for Language Arts instruction. This includes guided reading, self-selected reading, writing and Working with Words block. The Accelerated Reading program is used in third grade to determine each child's reading level and to check comprehension on the books read. Grammar, punctuation and sentence structure are emphasized in the writing.

MATHEMATICS

The Harcourt Math series is used in third grade. Each teaching unit in this series includes an introduction, guided instruction, practice, and assessment. Topics covered include place value, estimation, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, graphing, money, time and measurement. Third grade students are expected to be proficient in the addition and subtraction facts. They are introduced to multiplication and division facts with the goal of mastering as many as possible before fourth grade. Various forms of practice are used including a computer program entitled "Math Facts in a Flash."

TECHNOLOGY

Allowing students the opportunity to use technology in the elementary classroom is important. In third grade, computers are used to reinforce the concepts that are taught in the regular classroom. In addition, students begin to learn proper keyboarding skills. Computer classes are held twice a week for 25 minutes. The main emphasis is on correct hand and finger placement and on accuracy. Speed is not a concern at this level.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Third grade students receive three quarters of science instruction with the fourth quarter devoted to health education. The text used in class is Scott Foresman Science. Topics for the three quarters include: Life Science (plant and animal life cycles, food chains, habitats), Physical Science (sound, matter, gravity, and magnetism), and Earth Science (changes in the earth, natural resources, pollution and the environment). Students will use the Great Body Shop Curriculum for Health. Students will study nutrition, safety, germs, and saying no to alcohol and drugs. The information is age appropriate and includes vocabulary, games, quizzes, and other material to help develop values, build critical thinking skills, and promote behaviors that relate to health goals.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Third grade students have physical education class for 25 minutes each day. The focus of our PE program is to foster in children a love of physical activity and play. Class activities are designed to help students develop coordination and control. Good sportsmanship and fair play are stressed with all students.

HANDWRITING

Third grade students learn cursive handwriting using the Zaner Bloser Handwriting Book. The four keys to legibility are taught and reviewed throughout the year. These are size, shape, slant, and spacing.

MUSIC

Music classes meet for 25 minutes every day. Students in third grade sing a variety of music, develop a correct singing voice and work on proper use of the voice. Students will also have the opportunity to play classroom instruments and perform and create rhythmic and melodic patterns. All students will participate in a music program each year.

COUNSELING

LES has a full time elementary counselor to provide services to our students. The guidance program consists of individual and group counseling, consultation with teachers, parents, and administrators, and classroom guidance activities. Our counselor also assists students to understand themselves in the context of home, school and community. The counselor serves as a referral agent and as a member of the child study team.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

LES provides a variety of special education services in accordance with a child's individual education plan (IEP). All children are educated in the regular curriculum to the maximum extent possible. Examples of special education services provided within the districts are: learning disabilities, developmental cognitive disabilities, emotional-behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorders, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and adaptive physical education, early childhood and vocational services.