

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 3

The 2023-24 Year at a Glance for Grade 3 helps to organize the units of study in each subject that our grade 3 students will engage in throughout the year. Educators utilize the [MA Curriculum Frameworks](#) to design standards-aligned units of study for each subject. The units are rigorous, yet developmentally appropriate with learning experiences that allow students to achieve their personal best as they strive to meet and exceed grade level expectations.

Canton Public Schools 2023-2024: Grade 3 Curriculum Guide 6/13/23												
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June		
Reading	Building a Reading Life		Mystery: Foundational Skills in Disguise		Reading to Learn		Character Studies		Text Tasting: Reading Complex Text		Research Book Clubs	
Word Study	Patterns of Power Lessons 1-10 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 11-21 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 22-34 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 35-47 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 48-60 & Spelling Connections			
Writing	Crafting True Stories		Information Writing		Baby Literary Essay		Text Tasting: Writing in response to reading		Changing the World			
Social Studies	Review of Map Skills, Topics 1 & 2, Gr 2	Topic 1 Massachusetts Cities and Towns today and in History		Topic 2 The Geography and Native Peoples of MA		Topic 3 European Explorers First Contact with Native Peoples in the Northeast		Topic 4 The Pilgrims, the Native Colony and Native Communities		Topic 5 The Puritans, the MA Bay Colony, Native Peoples, and Africans		Topic 6 Massachusetts in the 18th Century Through the American Revolution
Math	Launching Routines Math Is... Unit 1	Number and Operations-Base 10 Use Place Value to Fluently Add/ Subtract within 1000- Unit 2		Operations and Algebraic Thinking Multiplication and Division- Unit 3 Use Patterns to Multiply- Unit 4 Benchmark Assessment Use Properties to Multiply- Unit 5 Connect Area and Multiplication- Unit 6		Number and Operations- Fractions Fractions-Unit 7 Benchmark Assessment Fraction Equivalence and Comparison-Unit 8		Operations and Algebraic Thinking Use Multiplication to Divide-Unit 9 Use Properties and Strategies to Multiply and Divide- Unit 10 Benchmark Assessment		Measurement and Data Perimeter- Unit 11 Measurement and Data- Unit 12	Geometry Describe and Analyze 2D Shapes- Unit 13 Reveal Summative	
Science	Launching Routines Earth & Space Science: Whether the Weather Affects Us or Not?			Physical Science: Forces, Motion, & Magnets			Life Science: Life Cycles, Variety is the Spice of Life Heredity: You Look Familiar Make No Bones About It					
Universal Screener & Grading	9/11-9/22 STAR Early Lit. Reading Math	CBM By 9/29	Parent Conf. ends 11/16 & 11/17	Term ends 12/1	STAR Early Lit. Reading Math	1/02-1/12	CBM By 1/19	Term ends 3/12	Parent Conf. ends 4/4 & 4/5	5/06-5/17 STAR Early Lit. Reading Math	CBM By 5/31	Term ends 6/13

The timelines shared in the chart are approximate, the timeframes listed are not intended to be unit deadlines. Teachers may adjust the length of a unit based on student learning needs. Some units may take longer if students need more time and instruction, while others may be shortened if students are ready to move forward with their learning sooner.

Literacy in Grade 3

Literacy learning in grade 3 continues the transition from picture books to chapter books with increasingly longer chapters, more words on each page, smaller print, and less picture support. Students will gain experience reading books with multiple plot lines and complex characters.

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Literacy instruction in Grade 3 is designed around the Reader’s Workshop and Writer’s Workshop model of instruction which fosters student independence, confidence and a love of reading. Instruction is often designed around a core text, called the mentor text, for each unit, which allows teachers to build community around learning in specific areas driven by the grade level expectations. Then, by offering choice and access to engaging, challenging and thought provoking literature with a range of reading levels, students learn, both independently and in small groups, to read, discuss and respond in writing, as they build a strong foundation of skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Using the [MA English Language Arts and Literacy Framework](#) as our guide, educators draw from a variety of sources to design for instruction in reading, writing and word study.

In order to ensure a consistent student experience across classrooms and schools, elementary teachers mainly use a reading and writing curriculum designed by Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. Teachers will use additional resources to enhance their instruction from a variety of district provided programs. We are continually updating our classroom libraries to provide students with access to high quality, diverse and engaging literature while providing students with opportunities to choose what they are reading.

Reading

Building a Reading Life

In grade 3, we launch the year with a unit that focuses on fiction. The start of the year launches your students’ lives as upper elementary school readers. Children ramp up their reading skills by immersing themselves in within-reach fiction books while working on word solving, vocabulary development, and more.

Standalone Unit- Mystery: Foundational Skills in Disguise

This mystery unit connects strategies students learned in grade 2 while extending their volume and stamina as they read many books within one genre. Using a shared mystery as our mentor text, students have opportunities in book clubs to read other mysteries as they learn to follow ideas across their texts, seeing cause-and-effect relationships, and predicting outcomes. Mysteries provide the perfect structure to support students as they learn to infer—to notice clues and to wonder more about them; to consider how part of one chapter relates back to what was learned in an earlier chapter; and to wonder when characters are really telling the truth.

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Reading to Learn: Grasping Main Ideas and Text Structures

This unit addresses essential skills for reading expository nonfiction, such as ascertaining main ideas, recognizing text structure, comparing texts, and thinking critically. Students will also study the skills for reading narrative nonfiction, such as determining importance by using knowledge of story structure.

Character Studies

In this unit, students will further develop their skills when working into fiction books, teaching them to closely observe characters and sharpen their skills in interpretation.

Reading Complex Texts (“Text Tasting”)

In this unit, students practice their skills in close reading of complex texts to read a variety of genres. Students draw upon the many skills they have acquired in grade three to read and respond to challenging texts as they prepare for their MCAS assessments.

Research Book Clubs

In the final unit of the year, students learn how to turn to texts as their teachers. Children work in clubs to gather, synthesize, and organize information about animals, and then use this information to seek solutions to real-world problems.

Writing

The Writer’s Workshop units are closely aligned with the reading units and support students in developing their skills in writing in three important areas: narrative, informational, and persuasive writing. Grade three also marks an important transition in writing from using paper with large space for picture drawing to using a notebook with lined pages for the first time. Across the year, students will work to increase their stamina for longer, stronger, more complex writing while also learning proper grammar and structures to produce meaningful, well structured pieces of writing.

Crafting True Stories

The first unit of the year extends students’ work with personal narrative while engaging them more fully in the complete writing process. Increasing emphasis on drafting and revising their work is a goal in grade three. Students grow their ability to use longer and more complex sentences and fewer illustrations to tell their stories.

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The Art of Information Writing

In this unit, students write chapter books that synthesize a wide variety of information and learn to section their topics into subtopics. They are supported in this challenging work because they are writing about topics on which they have firsthand, personal knowledge; like dogs, soccer, gymnastics.

Baby Literary Essay

In this unit, students begin to learn how to write an essay about the books they are reading. The unit coincides with their reading work, as they learn to pay close attention to the characters in a story, learning to take notes to track character traits, motivations, struggles, changes and life lessons. They begin to form opinions about events and characters, using evidence from the text to support their inferences and conclusions.

Writing in Response to Reading

In this unit, students use all of the strategies they have learned to construct essay responses to the complex texts that they are reading in the corresponding reading unit. Students will hone their skills for clear, concise, on demand writing across three types of writing- narrative, informational and persuasive. Students will learn to respond to focused question prompts to prepare for the open response questions on the MCAS assessment.

Changing the World: Persuasive Speeches, Petitions and Editorials

The final unit of the year encourages our third-graders to use their newfound abilities to gather and organize information to persuade people about causes the children believe matter: stopping bullying, recycling, saving dogs at the SPCA, etc.

Word Study

In grade 3, students also engage in learning that addresses the MA ELA standards for language, which includes work in conventions of standard English, knowledge of language, and vocabulary acquisition and use. Teachers draw resources from a variety of sources to address this work in ELA as well as in the other subject areas, as students learn content specific vocabulary.

In ELA, teachers use two main resources to drive their instruction:

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Grammar and Conventions: *Patterns of Power*

Students study authentic texts and come to recognize these “patterns of power”—the essential grammar conventions that readers and writers require to make meaning.

Spelling: *Spelling Connections: A Word Study Approach* © 2022

This program teaches students common spelling patterns—the letter and sound combinations they need to know as they learn new words. As students learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns, they apply these learned rules to words at their current grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.

Math

The [MA Curriculum Framework for Math](#) provides guidance around the standards and grade level expectations for student learning in math. We will be implementing a new math curriculum this year, using the McGraw Hill Reveal Math program. Reveal Math®, a balanced elementary math program, develops the problem solvers of tomorrow by incorporating both inquiry-focused and teacher-guided instructional strategies within each lesson.

Reveal Math in grade 3 engages students across 13 standards-aligned units:

Unit 1- Math Is...

Unit 2- Use Place Value to Fluently Add and Subtract within 1,000

Unit 3- Multiplication and Division

Unit 4- Use Patterns to Multiply 0, 1, 2, 5, 10

Unit 5- Use Properties to Multiply 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9

Unit 6- Connect Area and Multiplication

Unit 7- Fractions

Unit 8- Fraction Equivalence and Comparison

Unit 9- Use Multiplication to Divide

Unit 10- Use Properties and Strategies to Multiply and Divide

Unit 11- Perimeter

Unit 12- Measurement and Data

Unit 13- Describe and Analyze Two Dimensional Shapes

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Science

The [MA Curriculum Frameworks for Science and Technology/Engineering](#) guide our unit development in Science. Students in grade 3 develop and sharpen their skills at obtaining, recording, and analyzing data while studying weather, forces, and life science units. There are six units that address science learning in grade 3.

Whether the Weather Affects Us or Not?

Students use local weather data to describe and predict local seasonal weather patterns and compare weather data from different regions of the world to learn how typical weather conditions differ by region throughout a year. Hands-on activities allow students to design and evaluate solutions for reducing damage caused by weather events.

Forces, Motion and Magnets

Students investigate the forces and interactions of magnets and how they can be used to solve a simple design problem. They explore the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of objects.

Life Cycles

Students describe that different organisms (plants and animals) have unique life cycles yet go through some common stages.

Variety is the Spice of Life

Students use evidence and examples to explain how certain organisms have characteristics that allow them to survive better than others in their environment. Changes in an environment can impact the survival of some organisms.

Heredity: You Look Familiar

Students provide evidence that plants and animals have inherited traits and there are variations in these traits. They also distinguish between inherited traits and characteristics that are caused by the organism's environment.

Make No Bones About It

Students compare organisms and environments from long ago to those of today by observing and learning about fossils.

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Social Studies

In 2018, new Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks were released including an emphasis on “stronger attention to the intersection of history, social science, and literacy instruction, through the inclusion of literacy standards for history and social science.” To that end, whenever possible students engage in interdisciplinary units involving reading and writing and presentations connected to the following topics:

Background Building: Map Skills

Educators will briefly revisit Topics 1 and 2 from grade 2 ensuring that students can read and make maps and have a foundational understanding of Geography.

Massachusetts Cities and Towns today and in history

Students will learn a bit more about how people can become involved in government. Focus will be given to how local governments are organized, how they function, and how they contribute to their communities.

The Geography and Native Peoples of MA

In this unit, students will explore how Native People lived in New England before Europeans arrived. Students will identify the New England states and learn about the diversity and past of the Massachusetts and New England region.

European Explorers First Contact with Native Peoples in the Northeast

Students will locate North America, the Atlantic Ocean, and Europe on a map and continue to learn how Native People first came into contact with Europeans in the 16th and 17th century.

The Pilgrims, The Native Colony, and Native Communities

By studying why the Pilgrim men and women left Europe and analyzing the relationships between Native Peoples and Europeans in southeastern Massachusetts during that time, students will understand the challenges for women and men in the early years of Plymouth.

The Puritans, the MA Bay Colony, Native Peoples and Africans

As third graders continue to be immersed in Massachusetts history, they will learn why Puritan men and women migrated in great numbers to Massachusetts in the 17th century, how they moved west from the Atlantic coast, and the consequences of that migration for the Native People of the region.

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MA in the 18th Century through the American Revolution

To finish the year, students will connect how Massachusetts and its history is important to our nation's history. Students will understand that Massachusetts colonist leaders of the 1770's were angered by a series of events and taxes they believed were unfair. The background knowledge built during this year will be relevant to deep study of this time period in Grade 5.

The *Massachusetts: Our Home 3rd edition* from Gibbs Smith Education is our core text, which is supplemented with additional resources to support student learning.

Social Emotional Learning

The Wayfinder curriculum is used throughout the year to support our students' social and emotional learning (SEL). Lessons across the year are designed to support student learning in 6 important areas: adaptability, self-awareness, collaboration, empathy, agency, and purpose.

Wayfinder Mindsets: In the first module of the year, students play some games to begin to get to know each other and explore how we would like to build a classroom culture where we all feel seen, heard and respected.

Wayfinder Skills:

Empathy and Compassion: In this module, students will use their curiosity and generosity to build relationships with our classmates.

Self-knowledge and Action: Our curiosity can help us understand ourselves. In this module, we will begin to explore the building blocks of purpose by understanding our preferences, strengths and passions.

Friendship and Collaboration: An important part of growing up is understanding how we impact others. In this module, students explore our impact by encouraging, collaborating, asking for help, and standing up for others.

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Feelings and Emotional Agency: Understanding feelings and how they show up in our bodies, behaviors, and communication helps us build self-awareness. In this module, students explore how to safely express our positive and challenging emotions.

Reflections: Students end the year reflecting on what we've learned, celebrating and appreciating one another.

Assessment and Grading

Universal Screening

Students in grade 3 will be assessed with our universal screener, STAR 360, in the fall, winter and spring. The STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments help to identify students who are At/Above Benchmark, On Watch, or Below Benchmark, so that appropriate support and personalized learning opportunities can be utilized to support individual growth. Parent reports are sent home to share the results with each testing period.

Students who are identified as Below Benchmark are also assessed using the STAR CBM, which measures specific skills in reading and math that are foundational to student learning.

Formative Assessments

Educators use a variety of other formative assessments to assess student learning and progress towards grade level standards. In ELA and Math, there are other diagnostic assessments that are used to glean more specific information about students' abilities.

Reports Cards

Elementary report cards are issued three times each year in December, March and June. For specific report card dates, please see the district calendar.