

# **PARENT AND STUDENT GUIDE**

## *Third Grade Concepts and Skills*



Prepared by:  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction



## AMESSAGEFROMTHESUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to another wonderful year of teaching and learning in Norfolk Public Schools! We are excited about joining with you to educate all students to be successful, productive contributors to society. We strive for all students to become powerfully literate. We have developed this parent guide to serve as a tool for you to stay involved in the learning process, and to assist you at home in strengthening your child's knowledge and skills in the core academic content.

This guide contains the state and local standards of learning in English, mathematics, science and history/social science. At the end of the guide, helpful hints for home are provided for you to use to enrich, enhance and strengthen your child's knowledge and skills in the various contents. Additionally, a calendar of important school dates is provided on the NPS website to help you keep track of holidays, early release days, parent conference day, and other important information.

Please use this guide at home as you partner with us in delivering a rigorous academic program to enable all students to become powerfully literate. If you need any assistance or additional ideas on how to use this guide or if you need other assistance with your child's education please contact your school. Finally, I look forward to working with you and the staff of Norfolk Public Schools to provide powerful teaching and learning opportunities to ensure the academic success of all of our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melinda J. Boone  
Superintendent of Schools

## ***What We Believe***

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The mission of Norfolk Public Schools, the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community, is to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning and are successful contributors to a global society, as distinguished by:

- Courageous advocacy for all students
- Family and community investment
- Data-driven personalized learning
- Strong and effective leadership teams
- Shared responsibility for teaching and learning
- Access to rigorous and rewarding college and career readiness opportunities

## **Board & Division Priorities**

- Ensure full accreditation
- Increase academic achievement of all students
- Improve climate, safety & attendance
- Become a School Board of Distinction
- Promote Norfolk Public Schools to reflect outstanding accomplishments of staff, teachers and students
- Develop and coordinate a capital improvement plan for facilities and technology to enhance teaching and learning
- Attract, retain, and help to develop strong academic families and highly qualified teachers and staff

# ENGLISH

## **In ORAL LANGUAGE, your child will:**

- Use effective communication skills in group activities.
- Listen attentively.
- Ask and respond to questions from others.
- Explain what has been learned.
- Tell and/or summarize a story with a beginning, middle, and end.
- Present brief oral reports.
- Speak clearly and use appropriate volume and pitch.
- Speak at an understandable rate.
- Organize ideas sequentially or around major information.
- Use clear and specific content vocabulary to communicate ideas.
- Answer questions from audience.

## **In READING/LITERATURE, your child will:**

- Apply word-analysis skills when reading and writing.
- Apply knowledge of root words, prefixes, and suffixes.
- Use context clues.
- Use strategies to read a variety of printed materials.
- Preview, use text formats, and set a purpose for reading.
- Apply meaning clues, language structure, and phonetic strategies.
- Use prior knowledge and sense of story to gain meaning.
- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of materials.
- Identify main ideas and supporting details.
- Make connections between past experiences and text.
- Utilize a variety of fix-up strategies.
- Make, confirm, and revise predictions.
- Ask and answer questions about the text to demonstrate comprehension.
- Draw conclusions about text to make meaning.
- Compare and contrast settings, characters, and events.
- Organize information or events logically.
- Write about what is read.

- Read, identify, and analyze a variety of genre.
- Compare and contrast characters.
- Use encyclopedias and other reference books, including online reference materials.
- Use table of contents, indices, and charts.

**In WRITING, your child will:**

- Write stories, letters, and simple explanations.
- Generate ideas before writing (e.g., graphic organizers).
- Organize writing to include a beginning, middle, and end.
- Maintain a consistent point of view.
- Revise writing for clarity.
- Use available technology.
- Use the writing process.
- Revise by adding words or descriptive details, improving sequence, deleting words, or extraneous information.
- Edit final copies for grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Use different types of sentences and punctuate correctly.
- Write legibly in cursive.



**MATH**

**In NUMBER SENSE, your child will:**

- Read and write 6-digit numbers and identify the value of each digit using a variety of representations and models (ex.  $157 = 14 \text{ tens} + 17 \text{ ones}$ ).
- Round to the nearest ten, hundred, or thousand (up to 4 digits).
- Compare two numbers (0 - 9,999) using the symbols  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$ .
- Recognize and use inverse relationships (fact families) - multiplication and division.
- Identify, write, model, and create the fractional part of a set, region/area, or measurement model as halves, thirds, fourths, sixths, eighths, tenths and twelfths (including mixed numbers).
- Compare the value of two fractions having like or unlike denominators (not greater than 12) using words and symbols.

**In COMPUTATION AND ESTIMATION, your child will:**

- Recall addition and subtraction facts to 20 with speed and accuracy.
- Add and subtract whole numbers, each 9,999 or less.
- Recall basic multiplication and division facts through the 12's table with accuracy.
- Represent multiplication and division using area, set, and number line models.
- Solve problems using multiplication of two whole numbers, one factor 99 or less, the second factor 5 or less.
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators using models (concrete and pictorial).

**In MEASUREMENT, your child will:**

- Count a collection of bills and coins to \$5.00 and make change for a purchase using the counting on strategies.
- Measure to the nearest half-inch.
- Determine the appropriate unit to accurately estimate and measure weight (ounces, pounds, grams, and kilograms), temperature, and volume (cups, pints, quarts, gallons, and liters) in U.S. Customary and metric units.
- Tell time to the nearest minute using an analog or digital clock.
- Identify and describe equivalent periods of time.

**In GEOMETRY, your child will:**

- Recognize the relationship between plane and solid figures (number of corners, square corners, edges, and shapes of faces).
- Identify and describe congruent and symmetrical plane figures.
- Identify and draw segments and angles.

**In PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS, your child will:**

- Conduct experiments, collect, organize, and construct graphs (line plot, picture graph, or bar graph).
- Interpret and analyze data represented in a chart, line plot, or graph.
- Determine the likelihood of an event and describe the concept of probability as the ratio of favorable outcomes to the total number of possible outcomes (ex. 1 out of 4, 1:4,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and 1 to 4).

**In PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS, AND ALGEBRA, your child will:**

- Recognize, describe and extend geometric and number patterns.
- Investigate and identify the identity and the commutative properties for addition and multiplication.

## SCIENCE

**In INVESTIGATION, REASONING AND LOGIC, your child will:**

- Conduct investigations in which hypotheses are formulated, observations and inferences are made, and conclusions are drawn.
- Classify objects into two or more sets or subsets.
- Measure length, volume, mass, temperature, and time to the nearest metric and standard English units using proper tools and techniques.
- Gather data and display the data in charts and graphs (line plots, picture graph, and bar graph).
- Learn to recognize unexpected or unusual quantitative data.
- Design and build models.
- Chronologically sequence natural events.

**In FORCE, MOTION AND ENERGY, your child will:**

- Investigate the purpose and function of simple machines (lever, screw, pulley, wheel and axle, inclined plane, and wedge), and state common examples.
- Identify the differences between simple machines and compound machines found in the school, home and work environments.

**In MATTER, your child will:**

- Investigate that objects are made of one or more materials.
- Investigate that the physical properties of materials remain the same as the material is reduced in size.
- Identify visible physical change.



**In LIFE PROCESSES, your child will:**

- Investigate that animals have behavioral and physical adaptations that allow them to respond to life needs and their surrounding environment.
- Learn to differentiate between hibernation, migration, camouflage, mimicry, instinct, and learned behavior.

**In LIVING SYSTEMS, your child will:**

- Investigate relationships that exist among organisms in aquatic and terrestrial food chains.
- Differentiate between producers, consumers, and decomposers.
- Differentiate between herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores.
- Differentiate between predators and prey.
- Investigate how different water-related and dry-land environments support a diversity of plants and animals that share limited resources.
- Differentiate between populations and communities.
- Investigate the role of humans in conserving limited resources.

**In EARTH/SPACE SYSTEMS, your child will:**

- Investigate the formation, types, and function of soils.
- Investigate the importance of soil to plants and animals (including humans).
- Gain an understanding that soil is a natural resource and should be conserved.

**In EARTH PATTERNS, CYCLES AND CHANGE, your child will:**

- Investigate basic patterns and cycles that occur in nature (day and night, seasonal changes, phases of the moon, and tides).
- Investigate plant and animal life cycles.
- Investigate the water cycle and its relationship to life on Earth.

**In RESOURCES, your child will:**

- Investigate natural events and human influences that affect the survival of species.
- Investigate the interdependency of plants and animals.
- Investigate how humans affect the quality of air, water, and habitats.
- Explain how fire, flood, disease, and erosion affect organisms.

- Recognize the need for conservation of renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Relate the sources of energy to various energy uses and conservation.
- Compare and contrast renewable and nonrenewable resources.
- Investigate how solar energy, wind, moving water and fossil fuels are used as energy sources.

## HISTORY/ SOCIAL SCIENCE

### **In HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS, your child will:**

- Explain how the contributions of ancient Greece and Rome have influenced the present world.
- Study the early West African empire of Mali.
- Study the exploration of the Americas.

### **In ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING, your child will:**

- Explain how producers in ancient Greece, Rome, and the West African empire of Mali used resources.
- Identify examples of making an economic choice.

### **In CITIZENSHIP, your child will:**

- Recognize the importance of government in the community by
  - explaining the purpose of rules and laws
  - explaining that the basic purposes of government are to make laws, carry out laws, and decide if laws have been broken
  - explaining that the government protects the rights and property of individuals
- Explain the importance of the basic principles that form the foundation of a republican form of government.
- Identify the contributions of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Cesar Chavez.
- Recognize that Veterans Day and Memorial Day honor people who have served to protect the country's freedoms.
- Describe how people can serve the community, state, and nation.

- Recognize that Americans are a people of diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who are united by the basic principles of a republican form of government and respect for individual rights and freedoms.

**In GEOGRAPHIC AWARENESS, your child will:**

- Develop map skills.
- Locate Greece, Rome and West Africa.
- Position and label the seven continents and five oceans to create a world map.
- Locate the countries of Spain, England, and France.
- Locate specific places, using a simple letter-number grid system.
- Read and construct maps, tables, graphs, and/or charts.

## Helpful Hints for Home

### *English*

- Set aside a time and place for your child to read for at least 20-30 minutes a day.
- Make sure your child has a large supply of fiction and non-fiction materials he or she can read.
- Discuss materials your child is reading.
- Use the library as frequently as possible.
- Make time to read together as a family.
- Help your child write letters to friends and relatives.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal.
- Enjoy and discuss your child's writing.
- Keep a file with stories written by family members.

### *Math*

- Use sports statistics or weather information in the newspaper or from television and have your child calculate averages or sequence numbers. Ask questions like which temperature was higher, what was the lowest score, or how many points did the winning team win by?
- Have your child do a number search. The object is to look for numbers around you: on cars, buses, houses, signs, etc.
- Talk about the numbers your child has collected (what was the largest number found, are there any odd numbers, what would you get if you added/subtracted two of the numbers, etc.).
- Have your child see how many numbers he/she can find that are written in word form (ex: One-day Cleaners, Five Points Auto, etc.). Challenge your child to find examples for all numbers between 1 and 10.
- Provide your child with toys and games that require thinking, problem solving, and are challenging (such as jigsaw puzzles, building blocks, trivia games, Rubic's cube, and/or various computer games).

- Have your child make a picture puzzle to illustrate various numbers. For example, choose some symbol that your child can easily draw to stand for 1's and 10's (for older children you can include 100's and 1,000's). List some numbers and have your child depict them. For example, if  $\_ = 10$  and  $\_ = 1$ , then the number 15 would be drawn \_\_\_\_\_.

### ***Science***

- Have your child record temperature for the week to the nearest degree Celsius and compare the findings to the predictions of a local weatherman.
- Have your child go on a scavenger hunt through the kitchen and list as many simple and compound machines that can be found.
- Have your child reduce an object in size and justify whether or not the object in the reduced state has the same physical properties as the original object.
- Have your child draw illustrations of animals hibernating, migrating, gathering, and storing food, etc.
- Have your child illustrate a simple food chain that can be observed in your neighborhood and label the different organisms as producers, consumers, or decomposers.
- Have your child write a creative story describing a predator and prey relationship.
- Have your child collect samples of the different components of soil and differentiate between them.
- Have your child illustrate the water cycle and identify the processes involved in the cycle (evaporation, condensation, and precipitation).
- Review with your child the key vocabulary discussed in each unit.

### ***History/Social Science***

- Use a map or globe and have your child find places talked about on television news programs or to follow the travel of his or her favorite sports team.
- Watch travel programs on television and discuss the differences and similarities between where you live and the featured place.
- Take your child with you when you go to vote.
- Visit museums, government buildings, national parks, and other historic sites.





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