**Overview of Third Grade Curriculum**

**Updated Fall 2019 for the 2019-2020 School Year**

**Language Arts, including English, Spelling and Reading: Bob Jones Publications; Handwriting: A Beka Publications:** During the third grade year, students review all phonics rules, review and refine cursive writing formation, and continue to develop their creative writing skills. Writing projects will include, but not be limited to writing game instructions, writing a friendly letter, writing a persuasive essay, writing a make-believe story, writing a book report, creating a sound poem, developing a research report and writing a compare-contrast essay. Their spelling lists are built on a phonics base and include vocabulary development and sentence dictation. Memorization of poetry is included in the curriculum. Grammatical principles covered include writing in complete sentences, using correct punctuation and capitalization, writing friendly letters, recognition of simple nouns, subjects, verbs, and adjectives, word usage, forming plurals and common contractions, recognition of antonyms, homonyms, synonyms, and dictionary skills. Reading texts include classic literature, Bible stories, character-building stories, tales of fantasy, favorite fables, a historical novel, and a contemporary novel.

**Mathematics---Association of Christian Schools International Purposeful Design Series (adopted by CCA school year 2012/2013):** Based on God’s principles of the order of creation, Purposeful Design Mathematics is a comprehensive math curriculum that balances conceptual understandings of mathematics with appropriate drill and practice and allows students to practice the conceptual skills they have learned with meaningful, real life problems. The use of manipulatives is viewed as critical and necessary to the study of Mathematics. As students involve themselves in hands-on activities, they grasp the mathematical concept being presented.

At the third grade level students are introduced to and encouraged to master the following concepts:

* Addition and subtraction: Adding and subtracting three and four digit numbers with and without regrouping; estimating sums and differences; adding and subtracting fractions and decimals
* Multiplication: facts through 9; multiplying one, two and three digit numbers by one-digit number with and without regrouping
* Division: facts through 9; dividing one, two, three and four-digit numbers with and without remainders; finding averages
* Patterns: Skip counting, odd and even numbers, multiples; Venn diagrams; geometric patterns
* Number theory: Reading and writing numerals through 999,999
* Place value: Identifying whole numbers to hundred thousands and decimals to hundredths; comparing and ordering whole numbers, fractions and decimals, using place value
* Factions and decimals: Reading, writing, and drawing fractions and mixed numbers; forming equivalent fractions, relating fractions to decimals
* Measurement: US customary and metric: length, capacity, weight temperature; finding area and perimeter
* Time: analog and digital time to 1-minute intervals; elapsed time; reading a schedule
* Money: Value of coins and bills; adding and subtracting coins and dollar bills; making change; relating money to decimals
* Geometry: Parallel and intersecting lines; plane and solid figures; congruent figures; motion geometry: slides, flips, turns
* Algebra: Solving problems using variable; writing equations; graphing ordered pairs; zero, order, and grouping properties
* Probability and Statistics: Collecting and recording data; making and interpreting graphs, charts and tables

**History and Geography-A-Beka Publications:** The theme of third grade history and geography is **Our American Heritage.** In a biological format of this chronologically arranged introduction to American history, students are introduced to studies of Columbus, John Smith, Pocahontas, Miles Standish, Squanto, William Penn, Ben Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Daniel Boone, Noah Webster, John Greenleaf Whittier, Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Clara Barton, U.S. Grant, Lousa May Alcott, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and Billy Sunday. Studies in geography include identifying continents and oceans of the world and an overview of the geography of the United States and the world.

**Science---Bob Jones Publications: Science 3:**

**Earth Science:** Earth: Minerals: crystals; properties; uses; precious metals: Rocks: formation of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks: Soil: formation; weathering; Space: Solar system: the inner planets; outer planets; asteroids and comets; meteors.

**Life Science; living things:** Birds: characteristics; tools for observation; identifying: Cells, tissues, and organs: living things; microscopes; cell structure; plant and animal tissue and organs: Plants: making and storing food; the green factories; helpful plants: Grouping animals: backbone and no backbone; warm-blooded and cold-blooded; plant-eating and animal eating:

**Human Body**: skin: layers; glands; fingerprints; dermis; care of skin, hair and nails

**Physical Science:** Work: forces; force x distance = work; power; people, horses engines, moving air, and moving water do work

**Energy:** Sound (ear): travels in waves; absorbed or reflected; through gas, liquid and solid; parts of the ear; hearing, pitch; loudness; quality

**Matter:** Mass and weight: defining: historic weights; ounces; grams; standard/ customary measure; metric system; springs balances

**Bible---Association of Christian Schools International; Christ and His Church:** Third graders study the life of Christ, the book of Acts and missions. Students are guided through the gospels as they learn and apply principles from the messages, parables, miracles, and life events of Jesus. Students get a glimpse of famous Christians through the "Portraits of Faith" biographies. Through "sword searches" they have an opportunity to consider the teaching of scripture in relation to materials being studied.

**Also:**

**\* Computer Introduction and Instruction:** Curriculum skillfully integrates classroom studies with computer skills. Students at all grade levels learn about keyboarding, desktop publishing, data base management, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations and all other components of the Virginia Standards of Learning in the area of technology.

**\* Music:** In weekly music classes, students learn the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory.

**\* Physical Education:** Our physical education teacher helps the students develop large motor skills and knowledge of games with rules.

**\* Art:** Students have an art class in addition to the art that is integrated into the daily program. Students learn about different techniques and about working with different media, as well as receiving an introduction to Art History. They are introduced to famous artists and see how Bible stories and concepts have been illustrated through the centuries with art.

**\* Spanish:** Conversational Spanish is taught weekly to students through games, stories and song.

**\* Chapel:** The entire elementary school joins together in the church chapel for a short service each Wednesday morning. This is a time or worship, prayer and testimonies. Classes take turns presenting the weekly lessons. Christ Chapel pastors are frequent visitors.

We also offer at an additional fee:

Piano lessons

Computer Club

Dance Lessons

Chess Club