

# Grade Two and Grade Three Curriculum Overview

2011-2012

**2/3 Team Philosophy Statement:** In second and third grade, students expand their abilities as they transition from focusing upon their individual needs to thinking about the group and the world around them. This is a rewarding period for students as they develop knowledge, skills and strategies which help them solve problems independently and collaboratively. Our goal is to help them build these important skills while encouraging each student's curiosity and passion for learning.

## Grade Two Experience

## Grade Three Experience

Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Japan, India, Friendship, Geogrpahy, Poetry, and Service Learning.	Wampanoag Culture and History, 3R's (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), Dragons, and Animals.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Decoding, Reading fluency and comprehension, Writing mechanics and spelling, Collecting and Analyzing information, Developing awareness of diverse cultures, Solving problems, Listening, and Presenting.	Reading fluency and comprehension, Communicating clearly in speech and writing, Story writing, Spelling, Problem solving, Serving the community, Presenting orally, and Collecting and analyzing information.

## Subject Area Highlights

Drama	Drama in 2nd grade is taught as part of the Language Arts/Social Studies curriculum through Readers' Theater.	<b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>What are the participatory steps of a musical production?</i> <b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> The 3rd/7th Grade Musical. <b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Theatre Games, Memorizing songs, Taking Direction, Developing self-confidence, Using voice and body, and Collaborating toward a common goal.
Language Arts	<b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>As we journey through literature, what will we learn about ourselves and about the world around us?</i> <b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Independent and guided reading, Word work, Read alouds, Spelling, Author Studies, Writing, Poetry, Beginning editing and revising, and Biography and Readers' Theater. <b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Developing reading strategies, writing mechanics and genres, Spelling, Speaking/Presenting, Building vocabulary, Developing fine motor skills, Note taking, Synthesizing information, Writing personal narrative, poetry, fiction and nonfiction.	<b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How do we nurture our joy of finding and expressing ideas through words?</i> <b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Creative and directed writing using Six Traits, Spelling, Elements of a story, Cursive handwriting, Literature group, and Interdisciplinary reading. <b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Decoding multi-syllabic words, Building vocabulary, Strengthening oral reading fluency, and comprehension, Responding to literature through class discussion and written response, Word study, Beginning to revise and edit independently, Spelling, Punctuation, Capitalization, Research and Report writing.
Library	<b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How does the library give us windows and mirrors &amp; enrich our understanding of allies &amp; bullies. How can we locate and use books and information?</i> <b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Author Study: Allen Say, Poems in your Pocket, India: Going to School <b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Locating books with computer card catalog, & call #s. Comparing and contrasting nonfiction information. Visual literacy - "Reading" an image. Listening to stories	<b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can the library help us understand that knowledge and culture are transmitted in multiple formats? How can we share stories and solve information problems?</i> <b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Oral traditions: Fairy Tales, tall-tales & storytelling, animal research <b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Identify types of information and information sources: maps, images, nonfiction. Use tools to locate information within text. Use stories to build confidence, sequencing, and identifying big ideas versus details. Book reviews

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Mathematics	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can I begin to speak the language of Mathematics?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Number facts, Place Value, Telling Time, Money, Geometry, Multiplication, Division, Measurement, Fractions, and Decimal notation.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Solving addition and subtraction stories, Identifying place values, Completing number sequences, Identifying shapes, Drawing line segments and arrays, and Naming and comparing fractions.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How do we as mathematicians use manipulatives, words, pictures and numbers to show our thinking?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Review of addition and subtraction, Estimation, Problem solving, Multiplication, Number sense, Division, Fractions, Decimals, Word problems, Probability, and Geometry.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Solving problems independently and with peers, Developing addition and subtraction strategies, Identifying and using correct operations to solve word problems, Improving fluency and accuracy of math facts, Representing and comparing fractions, Recognizing geometric shapes, and Using appropriate forms of measurement.</p>
Music	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>Where are there structures in music?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Musical terminology, Composers, Jazz, Music of Japan, folk dancing, and Songs for 3rd Grade Graduation.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Working in small and large groups, and Listening. Improvising, Developing singing techniques, movement coordination &amp; sequencing.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How do we as musicians appreciate differences?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> 3rd-7th Musical production, Patriotic songs, Music of the African-American Tradition: Spiritual, Blues and Jazz. Musicianship, Composers, Orff Percussion instruments, The Recorder, and Coordinating of Singing, Instrumental and choreography skills for the 3rd Grade Graduation.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Cooperation &amp; leadership, performing skills, movement coordination, creating choreography, recorder playing &amp; rudimentary music reading.</p>
Physical Education	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can I move safely, skillfully, respectfully, and confidently?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Cooperative activities, Health/fitness, Skill Themes, Gymnastics, and Dance</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Cooperating, Communicating, Developing strategies, Kicking, Dribbling, Rope jumping, Tumbling, Throwing, Catching, Striking, and Volleying.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>What does it mean to be part of team or group in physical activities?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Adventure and Cooperative activities, Health/fitness, Speed Stacking, Yoga, Golf, Gymnastics/Gym Show, Skill themes and Dance</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Trust, Honesty, Respect, Flexibility, Endurance, Heart Health, Throwing, Kicking, Dribbling, Lay ups, B.E.E.F., Rope jumping, Dancing and Creating routines.</p>
Science	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How do we, as scientists, learn about our world and ourselves?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Forensic science, Birds, Gears, Bones and Muscles, and Flying things.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Making scientific observations, Collecting, organizing and analyzing data, Designing and using models to test predictions and to discover new information, and Inferring from data.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How do we, as scientists, use evidence, models and simulations to answer questions and solve problems?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Chemical properties, Acids and bases, Animal signs and tracking, Animal adaptations, Rocks and minerals, Pulleys, and Electricity.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Comparing and contrasting, Inferring from observations and patterns in data, Using data to solve design challenges, Using scientific tests to collect data, and Communicating conclusions</p>
Social Studies	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>What does learning about other communities teach us about our own?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Creation of a school community, Being a good friend and ally, Japan, Geography, India, Gandhi, M.L. King, Jr.,</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Understanding map terms, Locating places on maps, Reading nonfiction and fiction, Comparing and contrasting, Conducting Research, and Presenting information.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>What is a community?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Creation of class and school community, Wampanoag culture and history, Massachusetts history, Local town studies, and World Geography.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Collecting data, Comparing and contrasting, Identifying New England states, Reading and creating maps, Presenting orally, Conducting research, Presenting information using multimedia, and Reading nonfiction and fiction.</p>

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Technology	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can technology support and enhance student learning?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Bird research, Drawing and painting, Logo, Geography, Math, Spanish language and the Human body.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Keyboarding, Using graphic tools, Word processing, Using spell check, copy &amp; paste commands, angles of rotation, Logo programming, Poetry &amp; Music Creation, Using Alphasmart keyboards, and Conducting Internet research.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can technology support and enhance student learning?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> World geography, Electric circuits, Geometry, Math, Logic and Logo.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Keyboarding, Word processing, Saving and printing to desired locations, Estimating, Creating graphs and multimedia presentations, Logo programming and Conducting internet research.</p>
Visual Arts	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can we use art as a means for understanding ourselves and the world around us?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Free and observational drawing, Japanese brush painting, self-portraits, Sculpture, and Sketchbooks.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Developing designs and drawings, Working independently, Making observations, Exploring color mixing, Drawing, Sculpting with clay, and Looking at art.</p>	<p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can I use art as a means for expressing my thoughts and ideas?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Free and observational drawing, Painting and color mixing, Sculpture, Ceramics, paper making and Sketchbooks.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Expressing creativity through original drawings and designs, Making observations, Understanding color mixing and color theory, Making lines of different varieties, Printmaking, Sculpting, and Looking at art.</p>
World Languages	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spanish</b></p> <p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>Why is it important to learn a second language? How can learning Spanish enhance our lives?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> Spanish-speaking countries and currency, Greetings, Colors and Shapes with Pablo Picasso, Parts of the body, Spanish poetry, <i>El día de los muertos</i>, <i>El día (de acción) de gracias</i>.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Following basic directions, Asking/responding to simple questions, Reading and reciting poetry, Reading and singing songs, and Appreciating Spanish cultures.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spanish</b></p> <p><b>Overarching Question:</b> <i>How can Spanish help us to better develop our communication skills and to deepen our social experiences?</i></p> <p><b>Sampling of Topics of Study:</b> More Spanish-speaking countries and currency, Class schedule/dayes/dates, Animals, Family members and descriptions, <i>El día de los muertos</i>, <i>El día (de acción) de gracias</i>.</p> <p><b>Key Skills Taught:</b> Following directions, Asking/responding to questions, Combining words into phrases, Reading and singing songs, Reading short stories, Appreciating Spanish cultures, and Integrating technology through projects.</p>