Art
The 3rd grade art program works diligently to reinforce the Elements of Design: shape, texture, color, line, value, shape & form: concepts that were introduced in their primary art classes. Students are also challenged to incorporate the Principles of Design (contrast, rhythm, unity, balance, pattern, movement & emphasis) in their work. Art classes are considered a valuable part of a well rounded education. These classes will better prepare children for their secondary credit courses. A few areas that are concentrated on: drawing, collage, painting, printmaking & sculpture centered on interdisciplinary connections, multicultural themes and/or art history lessons.

Music
The study of music is a vital part of our total education. Instruction will provide opportunities for children to enjoy themselves while engaging in various musical experiences. Music objectives focus on:
- Singing
  - Pitch Recognition
  - Vocal technique and Expression
  - Repertoire
- Aural Perception
  - Develop pitch and rhythm perception
- Music Notation Reading
  - G Clef lines and spaces
  - Ledger lines
  - Sharp, flat and natural
  - Association of syllables with notation
  - Sixteenth notes
  - Repeat sign
  - Time signature
- Rhythm
  - Rhythmic Exercises in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4, counting as performing
- Listening
  - Students will:
    - Listen to varied musical styles
    - Identify by sight and sound the instruments of the orchestra
- Music Vocabulary

Wellness
Our Physical Education and Health program is fully integrated and follows national and state standards. It provides sequential and progressive opportunities for the development of motor skills, physical fitness, team building and responsible decision-making. Students will recognize the benefits and see the value of physical activity and responsible decisions toward a healthful lifestyle.

The following concepts are reviewed and enhanced:

Health
- Social Skills
- Safety and accident prevention
- Growth and development
- Substance abuse prevention

Physical
- Body and spatial awareness
- Jumping and landing
- Chasing, dodging and fleeing
- Rolling
- Balancing and weight transfer
- Dribbling with hands and feet
- Kicking and punting
- Throwing and catching
- Volleying
- Striking
- Fitness

Dear Parents,

This document provides you with a preview of the skills, knowledge, and concepts that are at the core of learning for this grade level. It also gives you a snapshot of what school life is like in Grade 3. “Benchmark” is a word used to identify target skills we seek to focus on and to develop in a particular year.

Teachers seek an active partnership with parents. Your involvement is critical to your child’s success in school. Each teacher combines individual creativity with district wide goals. Different teaching strategies will be used in the instruction of these skills and concepts.

Please make opportunities to reinforce the skills developed in Grade 3 in your home. We invite you to meet with your child’s teachers so that you will understand how you can reinforce what is taught in your child’s classroom.
Grade 3 Level Benchmarks

Typical Day  The third grader’s typical day is a busy one. During a routine day, children will spend 2 1/2 to 3 hours on language arts (reading, spelling, writing) and approximately one hour on math. Science and social studies and health are taught throughout the day and incorporated into language arts through themes. Additionally, students have physical education, music, art and computers are taught on a 13 week schedule. Please contact the teacher for the specific times and routines of the week.

Reading
• Students will read orally and silently with comprehension.
• Students will use strategies to enhance comprehension such as:
  ◦ Recalling prior knowledge
  ◦ Predicting
  ◦ Making inferences
  ◦ Comparing and Contrasting
  ◦ Fact and Opinion
  ◦ Making Connections
  ◦ Using Context Clues
  ◦ Word Attack Strategies

Writing
• Students will develop the ability to write for different purposes.
• Students will express meaning clearly in paragraphs with main ideas and supporting details.
• Students will use spelling that is grade level appropriate.
• Students will develop the use of the following editing skills: sentence structure, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
• Students will develop reference and research skills.
• Students will be introduced to the writing process.

Listening and Speaking
• Students will develop skills to listen attentively with interrupting during:
  ◦ read alouds
  ◦ speakers
  ◦ presentations

• Students will develop skills to speak age-appropriately and share ideas by:
  ◦ using correct vocabulary
  ◦ communicating ideas using details
  ◦ speaking with expression, appropriate volume and pace

Math
• Students in grade three use concrete objects and models to solve problems and learn new concepts.
• They become familiar with problem solving strategies.
• Students deepen their understanding of place value, addition and subtraction.
• Students learn multiplication and division of whole numbers.
• Students build fluency with math operations.
• Students continue developing patterning, graphing, measurement, time, money, fractions and estimation skills.
• Interpret data represented on charts and tables.
• Students will become more comfortable with pencil and paper methods to show their work and using the written word to explain their math processes.

Social Studies
• Students will understand that world cultures are, and always have been, alike in some ways and different in others.
• Students will be aware that cultures and civilizations change over time.
• World communities will be located on maps and globes.
• World communities affect and are affected by the geography of their region.
• Given two different world cultures, or one culture at different periods of time, students will cite at least two differences in the needs and wants of the people in the two cultures.

Science
• Students will be introduced to the scientific method.
• Students will be able to describe characteristics of and variations between living and nonliving things.
• Students will name traits, describe life cycle stages, classify (i.e. backbones vs. no backbones, cold vs. warm blooded), explain the function and give examples of animal adaptations and explain distinguishing features of several types of animals (i.e. mammals, reptiles, amphibians etc.).
• Students will describe how plants and animals (including humans) depend on each other and the nonliving environment.
• Students will identify ways in which humans have changed their environment and the effects of those changes. Examples of concepts addressed are food chain, food web, population, community, endangered and extinct species etc..
• Students will describe the basic life functions of some common living specimens such as parts of plants and their functions, how plants make food, reproduction, pollination, germination, life cycle of plants etc..

Computer Education
• Introduction to the computer and learn how to use the computer properly
  ◦ Each part of the computer and its respective function
  ◦ How to sign on the the Hudson City School District network
  ◦ Home Row Keyboarding
  ◦ United States QWERTY typing standard
  ◦ Research project using an assigned website
  ◦ Access internet website
  ◦ Learn how to search for important information
  ◦ Transfer information into own words
  ◦ Acrostic Poem
  ◦ Formatting using Microsoft WORD
  ◦ Insert Clip Art
  ◦ Fundamentals of acrostic poem writing
  ◦ Who Am I Slide Show
  ◦ Microsoft POWERPOINT

Science Cont’d
• Students will be able to describe patterns of daily, monthly and seasonal changes in their environment. Concepts such as seasons, layers of the earth, the power of wind and water, the effects of earthquakes and volcanoes on the earth.
• Students will name various types of rocks and soil and explain how they are formed.
• Students will learn how the earth moves i.e. axis, rotation, revolution, orbit etc.
• Students will learn about the phases of the moon, planets, solar system, satellites etc.
• Students will explain and describe the formation of clouds and storms – not to include the water cycle.

Homework
Teachers assign homework for a variety of purposes:
• to practice and reinforce skills
• extend and apply previously learned skills
• integrate skills
• establish responsibility
• Students are to read for a total of 30 minutes and write for a total of 20 minutes each day