



## A Quick Overview

The third grade year marks the transition from the lower to the upper school and is the foundational year for preparing students for the intermediate grades. With the introduction of backpacks and planners, there is increased emphasis on personal organization and independence in managing materials. Study skills are perfected in this pivotal year as grades are introduced and tests become more frequent.

Developmentally, students grow more social and become increasingly aware of how they relate to others. This transformation primes the third grade year as fertile ground to continue rooting leadership skills through the Seven Habits program. Also, the essential integration of technology throughout all disciplines allows many opportunities for practical hands-on 21st century learning, interdisciplinary projects, and cooperative learning experiences.

With the needs of every child in mind, daily curriculum is enhanced through an intentional focus towards developing the 4Cs: creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. These competencies are nurtured and built upon in a carefully crafted continuum throughout each Park Maitland student's journey, ultimately preparing him or her to be a productive asset in a global society.

## Evidences of the 4Cs at this level include assignments and tasks across our curriculum where the third grade student will do the following:

### Build Creativity

- Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
- Identify characteristics of quality ideas and evaluate personal ideas using this barometer
- Realize usefulness of original ideas and begin to articulate this usefulness to others
- Adapt responses to fit the situation
- Seek out opportunities for creativity based on personal interest in topics

### Build Critical Thinking

- Identify more open-ended problems without simple solutions
- Demonstrate persistence and grit with less external prompting
- Exhibit a willingness to try new things and embrace learning from mistakes as opportunities for growth
- Learn and utilize the tools, technology, and materials needed for producing prototypes that make his/her thinking visible
- Articulate and reflect on the Design Thinking Process as it guides his/her learning





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## Build Communication

- Articulate thoughts and ideas accurately and effectively through oral, written, or multimedia communications
- Determine the purpose for communicating and organize as well as present information to serve the purpose, context, and audience
- Organize the sequence of ideas/events that move his/her audience smoothly through a form of communication from beginning to end
- Use a variety of tools that display excellence in presentation and content
- Curate information from print and digital sources using a variety of tools and methods to create collections of artifacts that demonstrate meaningful connections or conclusions (with teacher guidance)

## Build Collaboration

- Solve problems and work to resolve conflict within the group more independently
- Use collaborative technologies to work with others, including peers, experts, or the community to examine issues from multiple viewpoints (with teacher guidance)
- More independently publish, plan, present, and exhibit work with group members, highlighting common goals and problems solved

## Course Descriptions:

### Language Arts: Reading and E.S.W (English, Spelling, and Writing)

The language arts curriculum instills a lifelong enjoyment of reading and writing through the use of widely varied reading materials. Continued emphasis is on teaching students the writing process and having them write in different genres using the literary elements learned in reading class. The English curriculum builds on an understanding of grammar and mechanics while continuing to teach spelling rules and strategies.

As students have now become successful readers, the transition from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" is solidified. Curriculum develops and polishes student phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills. Using critical thinking strategies, students develop their abilities to read a story and effectively recognize main ideas, sequence of events, and different story elements.

Activities that highlight the curriculum include the Author's Tea, where students share their writing through individually crafted books containing both creative and nonfiction works. Expert authenticity is added to this event through the appearance of a local author. There is also the annual Read-In, a treasured favorite of our third graders since they get to storm the school in their pajamas and enjoy an evening of engaging and fun-filled reading activities.





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## Math

The accelerated math curriculum provides students with the confidence and ability to think critically and solve everyday mathematical problems while also continuing an emphasis on the mastery of math facts. The ultimate goal is to create a comfort with numbers and basic numerical skills. Of course, it is a concurrent goal for our students to be filled with a positive attitude towards math. Therefore, we continue to infuse math learning with engaging lessons and meaningful experiences.

Acknowledging the upcoming math transitions in grades four, five, and six, students are exposed to a variety of test-taking and problem solving skills and are asked to demonstrate real life applications of math in meaningful ways. The major topics covered in this course include computation, measurement, geometry, place value, money, time, fractions, decimals, probability, and statistics. iPads are used consistently for the reinforcement of concepts and application of knowledge.

## Science and Social Studies

Textbook lessons in social studies come to life with field trips and creative projects as we prepare our students to become citizens in a global community. In a diverse learning environment which explores geography, world cultures, social values and systems of government, as well as in-depth pioneer and Native American studies, it is our goal to prepare our students for all future studies in the social sciences.

In science, students investigate the natural world and learn the scientific method through experiments and other interactive projects. One such example is the 'Dr. Alan Saffran Science Expo'. The focus of Park Maitland's third grade Science Expo project is an integrated scientific effort that combines the use of simple machines, endangered species, conservation, global warming, and expository writing. Each child designs and builds a model out of recycled materials that uses simple machines to solve a problem encountered in nature due to global warming, habitat loss of native species, the use of natural resources, or the forces of nature. The final project includes a detailed report that follows the steps of the Scientific Method as a companion piece to the model itself.

A field trip to the Marine Discovery Center and an authentic Native American Festival, where students enjoy an interactive presentation by a visiting Native American as well as a Thanksgiving feast, complete this rich third grade experience.





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## Enrichment Classes

Park Maitland enhances the core curriculum for our second graders with a wide variety of enrichment programs taught by instructors who specialize in the area that they are teaching. These teachers pass on their passion for their area of expertise to our students. The enrichment classes our students enjoy are listed below:

**Physical education:** Each child is challenged to increase physical awareness of their body through the development of psychomotor, cognitive, and affective skills. The collaborative aspect of P.E. also enables students to learn about the benefit of teamwork and sportsmanship.

**Swimming:** With an increased awareness of safe practices around water, each student is challenged according to his or her individual abilities to both improve stroke techniques and swimming endurance. Equal attention is given to each of the four competitive strokes to allow every student to shine in their favorite while developing balance in all to complete the Individual Medley.

**Drama:** A focus on the senses brings a new element to the stage as the students are inspired to increase their awareness of how they take in information. Our talented teachers will then direct these budding thespians to use this input to create different worlds.

**Music:** The third grade students further ignite their love of music by studying theory in preparation to play the recorder, as well as learning folk dances that are incredibly enjoyable and kinesthetically challenging.

**Visual Arts:** An inclusion of Spanish during art class once a week encourages the practical application of acquiring a second language, while promoting alternative perspectives. Students are also inspired to create their very own scratchbooks from "scratch" and fill them with various works from silhouettes to Halloween sketches.

**Computer:** The computer course aims to build on students' digitally native status. They will practice varying concepts from proper keyboarding skills to utilizing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and additional software to support cross curriculum projects.

**Spanish:** Students will exercise their language muscle in order to learn and retain Spanish. This immersion in language ensures a mastery of personal introductions, classroom vocabulary, and basic travel communication.

**Writing Lab:** Focused attention is given to the art of producing written compositions ranging from essays to poetry. Third graders will discover how to craft well-developed paragraphs and fill them with information relevant to their topics.

**Library:** The students are urged to uncover the ability of books to transform thoughts, reflect reality, and build imagination. Library visits help students become familiar with the authors and genres available through any library system.

