

# **Brief Overview of Subject Areas**

## **ELA**

Third grade is a great time for students to further develop their reading skills. The emphasis changes from “learning to read” in the primary grades to the beginnings of “reading to learn.” This year we will again be using the Reader’s Workshop model along with other activities that were developed to meet the Common Core Standards.

Each unit will include listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar, phonics, and spelling skills. Literary studies throughout the year will focus on setting, plot, character development, voice, theme, and author’s style. Writing assignments and responses will correspond to the literature we are reading in class. Writing instruction will focus on several units of study including personal narrative, opinion, informational research, opinion writing, and fictional narrative.

## **Math**

This year in math we will be using the Investigations Math Program from Pearson. It is a very hands-on spiral program, frequently utilizing games during Math Workshop. Special emphasis will be placed on problem-solving activities and application of mathematics to everyday life. Several important 3<sup>rd</sup> grade topics are multiplication, division and fractions.

## **Social Studies**

The third grade program focuses on the study of world communities. Students will expand their concept of community by discovering how geography, history, natural resources, and economics have shaped the communities of our world today.

### **Science/Health**

We will explore the scientific process with a program from Smithsonian. Investigations focus on answering these questions:

- What Explains Similarities and Differences Between Organisms?
- How Does Weather and Climate Affect our Lives?
- How Can We Predict Patterns of Motion?
- How Can We Protect Animals When Their Habitat Changes?

For Health, students will have lessons focusing on emotional health mandated by NY State.

### **Handwriting**

We will be using the Zaner Bloser handwriting program to review cursive letters.