

Third Grade Curriculum

At Canyon Heights Academy, a leading private Catholic school in Campbell, California, our Third Grade curriculum fosters confident, capable students for a lifelong joy for learning. Our Integral Formation model is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, compassionate leadership, and a moral character rooted in Catholic values.

Language Arts - Reading, Spelling, Grammar, and Writing

Our language arts program is designed to develop strong foundational literacy skills while cultivating a love of reading and writing, using the Lucy Caulkins methodology.

In reading, students will:

- Apply various reading strategies for comprehension and discussion, such as synthesizing and categorizing information, developing a mental picture, making predictions, sequencing, retelling, making inferences, remembering critical details
- Focus on development and mastery of story elements, such as characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, theme, and point of view
- Read aloud with fluency and expression
- Read silently in a sustained and peaceful manner
- Read several class novels and additional literary genres with the aim of strengthening reading as well as comprehension

In spelling, students will:

- Correctly spell frequently used and common words
- Practice spelling rules and vocabulary through weekly spelling units aligned with reading materials, games, and dictation
- Consistently use content-rich words, employing encoding strategies to develop an ever-growing vocabulary

In writing composition, students will:

- Compose simple paragraphs using correct grammar and punctuation
- Explore different types of sentences: questions, statements, commands, exclamations
- Learn basic parts of speech and verb tenses
- Use the Lucy-Caulkins writing program to plan, draft, revise, and publish writing
- Create a variety of writing pieces: narrative, expository, and creative
- Write reports and essays that discuss cause and effect as well as comparison/contrast
- Continue mastering writing legibly and efficiently in both manuscript and cursive

In grammar, students will:

- Compose organized paragraphs, using proper grammar and punctuation in complete sentences

- Identify parts of speech such as subjects, predicates, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Learn about various sentence types (declarative imperative, etc)

Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking

We give students many opportunities to share their voice through classroom projects, socratic method instruction, and wider audience engagements, which fosters confidence and poise for a lifetime of self-advocacy.

Students will:

- Sustain focused attention for up to 30 minutes
- Ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Present oral reports with organized main ideas
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

Mathematics - Deepening Problem-Solving Skills

Our elementary math curriculum emphasizes logical thinking and problem-solving abilities to deepen core math skills and apply them in real-world scenarios, using the Sadlier Math program.

Students will:

- Master computation skills in multiplication and division, extending to multi-digit numbers
- Develop and master strategies for problem solving
- Understand perfect squares, square roots, Roman numerals, and decimals
- Add and subtract fractions, identify denominators and mixed numbers
- Develop understanding of statistics and probability
- Solve multi-step word problems using critical thinking strategies
- Read and interpret graphs and tables, modeling multiple data sets
- Practice mental math: enhance skills in mental computation, speed math, and mathematical inquiry and reasoning

Science - Experiential and Investigative

Our science program encourages inquiry, exploration, and wonder about God's creation. Students learn through hands-on experiments and discovery-based learning.

Students will:

- Engage in hands-on experiments and STEM-based investigations, using the scientific method
- Develop scientific thinking skills, including analyzing, predicting, classifying, and hypothesizing
- Study life science (habitats), physical science (light, force, motion), and Earth science (space, geosphere)
- Explore human anatomy, health, and nutrition through the lens of God's design
- Explore the use and care of natural resources, renewable and non-renewable
- Complete a partner science fair project

Social Studies - American History & Geography

Third Grade social studies at Canyon Heights Academy encourages students to engage with community, history, and the world around them.

Students will:

- Deepen understanding of chronology, community building, and historical change over time
- Focus on Early American history, focusing on native cultures, European exploration, American Revolution, Westward Expansion, Slavery, and the Civil War
- Explore local and national geography, maps, and patriotic symbols
- Study maps and globes: keys/legends, grid systems, cardinal/intermediate directions, etc.
- Identify various types of maps: political, physical, climate, atlas, and population
- Identify various physical land and water formations
- Locate familiar places on a map
- Compare and contrast historical stories, people, places, and situations
- Understand points of view based on perspective, developing concepts of community
- Continue advancement in research skills

Faith Formation - Christ-Centered

Through our religious education program, children begin to understand that they are intentionally and uniquely created in God's image and called to live with purpose and love.

Students will:

- Deepen their understanding of moral law and conscience formation
- Continue direct Bible study, recognizing Old Testament stories and Jesus' parables in the context of God's love
- Continue New Testament study, focusing on the works and teachings of Christ's ministry on Earth
- Recognize and celebrate certain special Feast Days

- Develop a stronger connection with and understanding of the community of Saints and their role in our lives
- Participate in the sacramental life of the school, including weekly Mass (serving the role of gift bearers), Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Adoration
- Understand how their body is a gift from God through the Theology of the Body curriculum
- Use Sacred Story prayer as a daily reflective practice

Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular

To nurture the whole child, Third Grade students also attend weekly classes in:

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Spanish Language
- Physical Education

These subjects enrich creativity, expression, motor skills, and global awareness.

Why Families Choose Canyon Heights Academy

As one of the top-rated Catholic private schools in Campbell, CA, Canyon Heights Academy offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered education that forms students in academics, character, and leadership. Our Second Grade curriculum is carefully crafted to support children's intellectual and spiritual development in a nurturing and joyful environment.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, we proudly serve families from Campbell, San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and the greater Bay Area.