

Third Grade **JANUARY** Newsletter



Important Dates

- **MAP-M Test** on Wednesday, January 15th
- **NO SCHOOL** on Monday, January 20th (holiday)
- **NO SCHOOL** on Wednesday, January 29th (end of MP2 teacher grading/planning day)

Science Project Donations Needed

- Third Grade will be making house structures in science. We are asking students to **bring in recyclable items** to use for this in-class project. Items that would be small cardboard boxes, plastic containers, egg cartons, paper or plastic cups, etc. Thank you for donating recycled materials for our students to use! Students can bring in items any time between January 6th-13th.

Reminders

- Students should complete homework each night. Their assignments are written in their agendas each morning.
- Students should leave all toys at home as to not disrupt our learning.
- Some grades may be collected from assessments that cannot be sent home, such as the CKLA Unit 5 Assessment, and Module 4 Eureka Assessments. Reach out to your child's teacher with any questions.

Curriculum Highlights

Math:

Module 4: Multiplication and Area

In January, our third-grade students will complete **Module 4: Multiplication and Area** from the Eureka Math curriculum. This module focuses on using multiplication to understand and calculate the area of various shapes. The module is divided into four topics: **Topic A: Foundations for Understanding Area**, **Topic B: Concepts of Area Measurement**, **Topic C: Arithmetic Properties Using Area Models**, and **Topic D: Applications of Area Measurement Using Rectangular Arrays**. In **Topic A**, students will build foundational understanding by recognizing area as an attribute of plane figures and using unit squares to measure it. **Topic B** emphasizes understanding the concept of area through hands-on measurement activities. In **Topic C**, students will apply arithmetic properties, such as the distributive property, to area models, helping them break down complex problems. **Topic D** extends this understanding by applying area measurement to solve real-world and mathematical problems involving rectangular arrays and other composite shapes.

To support your child at home, encourage them to practice multiplication facts regularly, as fluency in these facts will strengthen their ability to calculate areas. You can also engage them in real-life applications, such as measuring the area of furniture or rooms in your home, to reinforce the practical use of their learning.

Mid- and End-of-Module Assessment: Students will take a comprehensive assessment in the middle and at the end of the module to show what they learned. Grades will be collected.

SEL Harmony: In January, we will continue **Unit 2** of our Harmony Curriculum: **Empathy and Critical Thinking**. Students will focus on developing **empathy and critical thinking** skills. This unit helps students understand and recognize the feelings and perspectives of others, enhancing their ability to build positive relationships. Through engaging activities and discussions, students learn how to identify emotions, consider different viewpoints, and practice effective communication strategies.

In **Unit 3** of the Harmony curriculum, students will develop essential communication skills that foster positive interactions and relationships. Through engaging activities and discussions, students will learn how to express themselves clearly, listen actively, and resolve conflicts respectfully. This unit focuses on building empathy and understanding, helping students to navigate social situations effectively. By enhancing their communication abilities, students will strengthen their ability to collaborate with peers and contribute to a harmonious classroom environment.

Science: In January, we will continue our unit of study on weather and climate. Students will explore how scientists record patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Students will also explore the water cycle, different types of precipitation, and extreme weather events. Finally, students will participate in building a structure that can withstand extreme weather elements based on their learning from the unit.

Social Studies: We will resume Social Studies instruction in February at the start of Marking Period 3.

Curriculum Highlights

**MCPS excluded Unit 6 from the third grade curriculum. When we finish Unit 5: Light & Sound, we will begin Unit 7: Our Solar System next.*

Reading

In the rest of Unit 5, students will continue to study the characteristics of sound, as well as the human voice. Later chapters include information about light and photography as well as biographies of two famous inventors who worked with light and sound: Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison. It is important that you discuss the characteristics of the biography genre and stress that biographies are nonfiction since they are factual accounts of people's lives.

At the end of January we begin **Unit 7: Our Solar System**. Students will study the concept of gravity and its effect on the earth and other places in space. They will also learn about key people and events involved in the study and exploration of outer space. Students will explore the sun, the inner and outer planets, and the objects existing in our solar system. They will also study why planets stay in orbit.

Unit 5 Spelling

Students will continue to learn about dictionary skills and how to use guide words. In spelling for **Unit 5** Lessons 6–10, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ae/ spelled 'ay,' 'ai,' and 'ea.' Students will have two Challenge Words and one Content word added to each spelling list.

- **Lessons 6-10 Spelling Words:** subway, payment, awaited, ballplayers, yesterday, crayons, explain, mermaid, great, daydreams, daisies, obtain, breaker, betrayer, beefsteak, dainty, trainees, giveaway, family, young, straight

In Lessons 11–15, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ae/ spelled 'a_e' and 'a.'

- **Lessons 11-15 Spelling Words:** refrigerate, translate, changes, major, basic, nation, hurricane, famous, dangers, spacious, escape, invade, inhale, elevator, earthquake, cascade, fragrant, pancake, another, finally, concave

Unit 7 Spelling

In **Unit 7** Lessons 1-5, students will review words with spelling patterns of /j/ spelled 'g', 'j', 'ge', 'dge', and 'dg'.

- **Lessons 1-5 Spelling Words:** gymnasium, germy, digest, nudging, giraffe, exchange, eject, average, budget, lodging, jellyfish, jewel, bridging, ridges, dodge, fringe, fudge, answer, great, grate, Jupiter

For Lessons 6–10, students will review words with spelling patterns of /n/ spelled 'n', 'nn', 'kn', and 'gn'.

- **Lessons 6-10 Spelling Words:** gnat, skinny, knotted, recently, flannel, knighted, nearby, understand, design, knobby, manned, knowledge, channel, annoy, gnarly, knuckle, campaign, very, vary, enough, astronomer

Finally, in Lessons 11–15, students will review words with spelling patterns of /ae/, /k/, /s/, /j/, and /n/.

- **Lessons 11-15 Spelling Words:** yesterday, quickly, jewel, recently, subject, awaited, fascinate, annoy, knowledge, refrigerate, gymnasium, design, digest, kindness, character, budget, accomplish, different, thought, atmosphere

Curriculum Highlights

Grammar

In **Unit 5 Lessons 8-17** of the Amplify CKLA curriculum, third-grade students will focus on key **grammar** concepts that strengthen their writing and sentence structure skills. These lessons will cover the proper use of **verbs**, particularly the distinction between **regular and irregular verbs** in the past tense. Students will also learn about **subject-verb agreement** and the use of **linking verbs** to connect subjects with predicates. Additionally, the lessons will reinforce the correct use of **capitalization, punctuation, and contractions**. By engaging with these grammar topics, students will enhance their ability to construct clear, grammatically correct sentences, which is crucial for both their writing and overall language development.

Morphology

In **Unit 5 Lessons 8-17** of the Amplify CKLA curriculum, third-grade students will delve into important **morphology** concepts that enhance their vocabulary and reading comprehension. These lessons focus on teaching students about **root words, prefixes, and suffixes**, helping them understand how these elements can change the meaning of words. Specific lessons will introduce common prefixes such as **"un-" (meaning not)** and **"re-" (meaning again)**, as well as suffixes like **"-ly" (indicating manner)** and **"-ful" (indicating full of)**. Students will practice identifying and using these affixes to decode unfamiliar words and understand how adding them can alter a word's meaning. By the end of these lessons, students will have a stronger grasp of how morphology can help them expand their vocabulary and improve their overall language skills.

Writing

In January, students will work through **Lessons 8-17** of **Unit 5** in the Amplify CKLA curriculum. During these lessons, the writing instruction focuses on developing students' skills in **writing informative/explanatory texts**. Students will learn how to clearly introduce a topic, organize their information logically, and use facts, definitions, and details to develop their writing. They will also practice using linking words and phrases to connect ideas and provide a concluding statement or section that reinforces the information presented. These lessons aim to enhance students' ability to convey information clearly and effectively through their writing. Students will produce an informational newspaper article by the end of Unit 5.

At the end of January, we will begin **Unit 7**, working through **Lessons 1-7** of the Amplify CKLA curriculum. During these lessons, the writing instruction emphasizes **narrative writing**. Students will learn to write detailed stories that include clear sequences of events, descriptive settings, and well-developed characters. They will focus on using dialogue, sensory details, and temporal words to enhance their narratives. These lessons help students develop their ability to craft engaging stories while building a strong narrative structure.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jones's Class

none

Kirk's Class

Nabeel - January 1st
Cameron - January 2nd
Jian - January 20th

Khazai's Class

none

Sefcik's Class

Niama - January 8th
Evaan - January 25th

Thompson's Class

Antonio- January 18
Grayson- January 21
Chaitra- January 21
Arjun- January 23