

Third Grade Curriculum

Students in the Third Grade Program at Al Nur School explore the concepts listed below. Children learn these concepts at their own pace. Children are taught with hands-on materials, as well as with traditional methods.

Goals

- Provide a safe and loving environment for all children
- Foster a sense of self-confidence and well being in each child
- Expose children to and build a love for grade appropriate reading, math, science, Arabic, Quran, social skills, art, and movement
- Provide physical activities to facilitate gross and fine motor development
- To develop in children and parents a positive attitude towards self, others, school and learning

Math

Third grade students continue to develop computational skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, and solve problems involving more complex mathematical concepts. Students will continue using a variety of methods to solve problems and begin their study of probability as chance. Students will:

- Work with larger numbers and decimals
- Study place value and estimating using rounding
- Develop calculation skills using place value blocks to understand addition, subtraction, and regrouping
- Establish fluency with simple addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication number facts
- Study the basics of probability
- Use graphs and charts to understand how data can be represented visually
- Learn more about the basics of geometry
- Use strategies for solving word problems fractions

Language Arts

This course provides a comprehensive sequence of lessons introducing students to composition, vocabulary, grammar, and spelling. Lessons are designed to develop comprehension, build vocabulary, and help students become more independent readers.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- **Composition**—Students practice writing as a process, as they write a narrative, a report, letters, poetry, and more
- **Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics**—Students learn about sentence structure, parts of speech, research skills, and more
- **Vocabulary**—Wordly Wise provides practice in word study skills, word analysis, and reading comprehension
- **Spelling**—Through weekly word lists, students learn relationships between sounds and spellings
- **Handwriting**—*Handwriting Without Tears* helps students develop their cursive handwriting skills
- **Public Speaking**—Students learn and use techniques for effective oral presentations.

LITERATURE

Students develop literary analysis and comprehension skills. The emphasis is on works that embody exemplary virtues, including Greek and Norse myths, "William Tell," and episodes from *Black Beauty*. Students read works of nonfiction, as well as four novels (selected from a long list of such classics as *Charlotte's Web*, *Little House on the Prairie*, and *Henry Huggins*). A test preparation program prepares students for standardized tests.

Science

Students learn to observe and analyze through hands-on experiments, and gain further insight into how scientists understand our world. They observe and chart the phases of the moon, determine the properties of insulators and conductors, and make a three-dimensional model of a bone. Students will explore topics such as:

- **Weather**—air pressure; precipitation; clouds; humidity; fronts; forecasting
- **Vertebrates**—features of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals
- **Ecosystems**—climate zones; tundra, forests, desert, grasslands, freshwater, and marine ecosystems
- **Matter**—phase changes; volume; mass; atoms; physical and chemical changes
- **Human Body**—the musculoskeletal system; the skin
- **Energy**—forms of energy; transfer of energy; conductors and insulators; renewable and nonrenewable energy resources
- **Light**—light as energy; the spectrum; how the eye works
- **Astronomy**—phases of the moon; eclipses; the solar system; stars and constellations; the Milky Way

Social Studies

In social studies, the students will understand how individuals, events and ideas have shaped communities in the past and present. They will learn how to apply concepts of time and chronology to past and present events. They will examine how humans have adapted to certain environments, the concepts of an economic system, local government and citizenship, as well produce maps using location, distance and direction.

Technology

- Use computer programs to create and write picture stories
- Use a computer mouse: click, click and drag
- Use the Internet to explore kid-friendly websites
- Acquire technology skills as outlined in the TEKS

Quran Memorization Program:

Quran

- Develop the love of Quran and a motivation to memorize it.
- Know the right etiquette for learning Quran and learn to respect it.
- Continue memorizing the Quran starting from where the student left off.
- Revision of past surahs previously memorized.
- Understand meanings of the Surahs with the help of stories, pictures, and plays.
- Improve on Quran recitation and pronunciation.
- Learn how to read and write the Ayahs they are memorizing.

Arabic Grammar and Islamic Studies

- Arabic grammar is taught through a customized curriculum which enhances their understanding and reading of the Surahs they are memorizing.
- Islamic Studies is customized to the Surahs that the student are memorizing by having them understand the meanings of the verses in the Quran as well as deriving lessons from those verses.
- The Islamic Studies curriculum also incorporates Islamic manners and concepts which will enhance the student's understanding and character development and leadership skills.
- The boys will be trained to write and deliver Friday Khutbahs and be given the opportunity to lead daily salat.