

EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM 3RD GRADE

# STJCS



# INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 3RD GRADE

This curriculum overview is designed to summarize the major goals of the instructional program for Third Grade at St. James Cathedral School.

Although the curriculum is presented in this document by different subject areas, the skills and competencies from each area are often integrated during daily instruction.

The curriculum of St. James has been designed to follow the recommendations of the Diocese of Orlando and meets and/or exceeds the expectations set forth in the Florida State Standards.

The curriculum is enhanced or modified yearly to meet the needs of our student population.

# SJCS

*Academic excellence and spiritual enrichment since 1928.*

## Our Mission

St. James Cathedral School is an educational ministry of St. James Cathedral Church. A Catholic school committed to outstanding academic and spiritual development of all students, St. James Cathedral School provides varied opportunities for students to discover and develop their unique God-given gifts in a safe and stimulating learning environment. The love and stewardship of Jesus is our inspiration. We come to learn; we leave to serve.

## Our Beliefs

We believe it is our mission as Catholic educators to model the values and beliefs we teach in a faith-based community that fosters self-respect and respect for others.

We believe it is our role to develop and foster each child's unique, God-given gifts by encouraging students to do all they are capable of doing by themselves in child-centered classrooms where teachers act as facilitators.

We believe that Catholic schools should provide children with a spiritual and academic foundation that will lead to the development of creative and ethical problem solvers who will make a positive contribution to our world.

We believe that a St. James education should include intellectual, spiritual, moral and emotional formation that reflects the values we hold most dearly... integrity, honesty, moral courage, discipline and initiative.

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# Intermediate

## 3rd Grade Academics



## Mathematics

GO Math! at both the elementary and middle school levels combines 21st-century educational technology with modern content, dynamic interactivities, and a variety of instructional videos to engage today's digital natives.

Every student is supported through the universal access features of the program as they learn to think critically and apply their math knowledge.

Whether using the innovative Online Student Edition or Write-in Student Edition, students have all the resources they need to succeed. Memorization and mastery of multiplication is a gauge component of the curriculum.

## Social Studies

The main theme of this curriculum is "Communities". Students start off the year learning and using map skills. We study the Geography of North America. We focus on the different communities and regions of the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. Other Social Studies units include Government, Citizenship and basic economics.

Students are assigned projects throughout the year to extend their knowledge in these areas. We are current using the McGraw Hill series for this course of instruction.

## English/Language Arts

Students receive systematic instruction in reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, writing, grammar, and spelling.

The reading curriculum is enhanced through learning centers, literature circles, independent book reports, classroom presentations, and research using expository texts and various websites. CLS activities will supplement learning through the use of technology.

Teaching strategies are geared toward the wide range of learning styles and abilities of each student, allowing different groupings based on ability or personal preference.

Providing a variety of activities and projects in the classroom, students use tiered activities that have optional extensions for readers to pursue topics in greater depth; and providing a range of materials at different levels of difficulty so that all students may be challenged, but not frustrated.

Students are assessed through both written and computerized tests, observable behaviors in reading, writing projects and essays, class discussions and activities, following a standard through a given rubric, and standardized DIBELS and ITBS testing.

## Religion

Christ Our Life encourages faith knowledge that helps children articulate their Catholic faith.

Written by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the new 2016 edition of Christ Our Life fosters children's love of God and a rich knowledge of our Catholic faith so they can proudly go out into the world and proclaim it.

With its thorough presentation of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, its comprehensive approach, and its variety of teaching methods, Christ Our Life is the only program that is aligned with the Church's mission for a New Evangelization, the NCEA: IFG ACRE assessments, and the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

The students will concentrate on the seven sacraments, coming together to worship as a community, liturgical seasons, participation in the Mass, respect for all life, and personal growth.

The students will do several small group projects in class to demonstrate their understanding of weekly themes. Social justice will be part of our weekly learning.

## Science

ScienceFusion, by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, is a state-of-the-art science program designed for building inquiry and STEM skills and optimized for learning in the classroom or at home, on a laptop, tablet, or using a science textbook.

The STEM program in ScienceFusion provides real-world challenges, hands-on activities, and Video-based Projects that develop important critical-thinking skills that will prepare students for success in the workplace and in life.

# Intermediate

## 3rd Grade Enrichment Programs



### Technology

Our reading series includes an online activity website that each child may utilize in class and at home.

Students will be able to participate in reading leveled stories, vocabulary games, grammar jammer activities, writing exercises and more. Students will produce powerpoint and movie maker presentations to supplement a reading story topic or share a book report. Spelling stories will be typed on computer during the second half of the school year.

### Physical Education

Emphasis is on developing skill in all aspects of physical activity.

Sequencing of skill begins at this level for practical application.

### Art

The Intermediate art program emphasizes skills and fundamentals. Students gain confidence in art production. They will use and understand art terminology and become familiar with artists and art movements.

### Library

Students learn to organize information. They are guided in the use of the on-line reference sources Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia and other Grolier sources, as well as Britannica on-line.

They are taught the Independent Investigation Method (IM): selecting a topic, setting a goal, researching, organizing, evaluating their goal, and presenting their information in a report or other format. Proper citation of references is introduced. The major classes of the Dewey Decimal System are introduced.

Parts of the book are taught as a means of gathering information: title page, table of contents, index, glossary and bibliography.

### Music

**Singing:** more difficult melodies with more leaps. Students will distinguish between types of music. Continue to learn songs for Mass.

**Note reading:** a basic understanding of the lines and spaces if the treble clef  
Rhythms: work on rhythms using whole, half and quarter notes

**Instruments:** study "Peter and the Wolf" and other orchestral works with a trip to hear the orchestra, opera and ballet

### Spanish

Through Sonrisas Spanish, students acquire Spanish with a combination of music, lesson activities, games, authentic children's Spanish literature, art, and drama.

The Sonrisas Spanish curriculum is effective because it is pedagogically sound, and it engages students in a fun, natural, and age-appropriate way.

Students practice language concepts with partner time and portfolio activities. The end result is that students learn how to communicate effectively with lots of age-appropriate, practical Spanish.

## Curriculum Scope

GRADE	RELIGION	MATH	READING	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	HANDWRITING	SPANISH
3rd Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Perfection Learning 2012/ HMH Workbook & HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	Universal Publishing 2008	Sonrisas
4th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Perfection Learning 2012/ HMH Workbook & HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	Universal Publishing 2008	Sonrisas
5th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Word Roots/Critical Thinking Company & Daily Grammar Practice DGP Publishing 2016, HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	No Books	Sonrisas

# ALPHA

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement  
Intermediate 3rd - 5th



## Who

The program is open to students in grades 3-5 based on the following criteria: combined scores from a cognitive test such as the Cogat, IA scores from ELA and Math, and DIBELS.

## What

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement (ALPHA) is a project-based class designed to meet the needs of the gifted student by enhancing what they are learning in the general classroom.

A variety of teaching approaches will be used in order for each child to fully develop their intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capabilities.

Flexibility is an important characteristic of the ALPHA program which allows each child to be nurtured based on their specific needs.

## Why

Giftedness means many things. It means different things to different people, to society, and to gifted kids themselves. The term gifted and talented when used in respect to students, means students who give evidence of high achievement capability.

These capabilities are in the areas of: intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields and who need services or activities that may not be provided by their general education classroom.

## When

Each grade level meets once a week and will encompass the following topics: Power, Comparisons in rules and laws, Ecosystems, Environment, Cause and Effect, Citizenship, Economics, Social Action, Exploration, Culture, Ecology, Project Create, Settlement, Currency, and Measurement.

## Course Aims & Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Develop concepts related to different relationships.
- Work independently and collaboratively on certain projects.
- Will actively participate in solving various problems using specific problem solving techniques.
- Will participate in novel studies with rich, complex language, openness to create reflection, and helpfulness in building problem-solving skills.
- Will develop research skills using various types of technology and resources.

## Specific Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Provide examples, illustrations and salient features of different relationships.
- Form and revise questions for investigations.
- Use multiple sources to locate information for each question.
- Produce research projects and reports in effective formats using visuals to support the research.
- Develop analytical and interpretive skills in literature.
- Develop understanding of selected literary themes.
- Develop linguistic competency through vocabulary and language study.
- Develop skills in written and oral communication.
- Develop higher level thinking and reasoning skills in language arts.
- Develop research skills.

## Communication

ALPHA students use the educational blog EDMODO to communicate directly to parents and interact with their teacher and each other.

Website: <http://www.emodo.com>

