



OVERVIEW OF THIRD GRADE

INTRODUCTION TO ECS

Eugene Christian School is designed for students to live interactively with Jesus Christ and develop excellence in moral character, academics and service to others.

Christ-centered, Bible-based education

- strive for excellence in all things, to glorify God
- think and reason from knowledge of Scriptural principles
- develop a thorough, consistent, Biblically based, Christian worldview
- apply Biblical principles to every area of life, making life decisions based on Gospel precepts, Godly counsel, and Holy Spirit insights
- develop a sense of purpose and destiny with awareness that God has a plan for their lives
- prepare to fulfill God's calling and assignments
- love God and desire to serve and glorify Him (Colossians 1:16-18)
- love Jesus and accept Him as Savior and Lord, trusting Him for eternal life (Romans 10:13)
- develop a personal relationship with God, knowing, loving, and fearing Him (Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-15; Matthew 22:35-37)

Develop Moral Character

- We are committed to developing our students' inner lives by immersing them in the teachings of Jesus and providing opportunities for students to put them into practice .

Personalized Academic Program

- We are committed to educating students, no matter their strengths or weaknesses, on an individualized basis in order to achieve learning goals.

Serving the Community

- We are committed to fulfilling the greatest commandment through a worldview that says all people, regardless of status or condition, deserve to be loved.

CHAPEL & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Students participate in weekly chapel to pray, worship, and learn about God's Word and promises. The chapel program consists of practical monthly teachings deriving from Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you." Students also engage at the classroom level in Bible reading, verse memorization, and character trait development.

All grade levels gather together during the first Friday of every month to worship together in our performing arts center, and many times the worship is led by our own ECS students. In addition, student recognition awards are given out to students who demonstrate Christ-like character and growth (2 Peter 1).

Students are surrounded by staff at ECS that are committed to growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord. The staff desire to serve as role models for students in daily interactions, teaching, and problem solving. Ultimately, the emphasis in spiritual growth is focused on the “inner” life and how it spills over to our visible or “outer” life. Teachers model this growth process through classroom prayer and discussion, Bible studies, testimonies, and other curriculum resources. Our emphasis is on God developing character through the growth pattern described in 2 Peter 1. It is there we find seven values taught for growth in Christ and the beginning of a life-long journey with the Lord:

- Goodness (excellence in things, moral goodness)
- Knowledge (full of wisdom in making choices)
- Self-Control (knowing what I truly need)
- Perseverance (joy through trials)
- Godliness (living as God intended)
- Mutual affection (valuing others)
- Love (willing the good for others)

Highlights of third grade include learning to write in cursive write and to multiply and divide. Students build on reading and writing skills learned in primary grades and develop socially and spiritually. It’s an exciting year.

BIBLE

We use ACSI Bible curriculum and other resources to cover the Life of Christ, the Early Church and the Missionary Journeys of the Apostle Paul. Students learn to look up Scriptures and read them in the Bible, memorize verses, discuss Bible times and culture, act out Biblical stories, and apply the Word to daily life. As we interact in our learning community, whether in the classroom or on the playground, many teaching moments arise for learning to put the teachings of the Lord Jesus into practice.

MATHEMATICS

In third grade students learn to round numbers using understanding of place value. They learn to add and subtract and to multiply and divide quickly and easily within 100 and use those skills to solve word problems. They learn about the properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division. They develop understanding of fractions, measurement, intervals of time and concepts of area. We use “Digging into Operations, Fractions and Geometry” and many teacher-created resources to engage students in active, creative learning activities. Khan Academy and other online resources provide practice to master skills in specific areas. We link Khan with the MAP testing to allow students to practice skills at their level through Khan Mappers. The Mappers program presents skills each student is ready to learn, tailored to the individual student.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students learn strong communication skills in 3rd grade and are encouraged to express themselves through discussion, writing and speaking. They learn to listen well and to read both literature (fiction) and informational text fluently with comprehension.

Among our resources we use the Open Court (SRA/McGraw-Hill) reading program, exploring powerful themes of friendship, city wildlife, imagination, storytelling, money and country life. We also read novels in groups. Students develop strong oral reading skills, growing in fluency or ability to read words, phrases and sentences quickly and with expression. They build comprehension skills during all-class and small-group reading sessions with rich discussions. Students master skills such as asking and answering questions, describing characters and retelling stories from different cultures. They learn how to read Informational Text (nonfiction) with keen attention to detail and develop the ability to show in the text why an answer is correct. Students read a chapter book and produce a book report each quarter using a variety of expressions such as writing, speaking and art.

Beginning in third grade students have the opportunity to compete in OBOB, the Oregon Battle of the Books. Teams read 16 books and "battle" to answer questions. The winning team advances to regionals.

In Writing, third graders write a narrative essay about their summer experiences when school starts and produce other projects, including persuasive writing, research reporting and fiction stories. They learn grammar and apply it. They tackle Spelling by studying groups of words with similar spelling patterns through the ACSI Spelling program and learn grammar through weekly review and study of specifics like parts of speech and writing compound sentences. They learn to speak with poise and clarity and present a biographical speech in costume for the spring Extravaganza open house. Students learn to write in Cursive with Handwriting Without Tears.

HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY

Third graders learn mapping skills through the Abeka map workbook and apply the skills to mapping our classroom and learning the continents. We study the geography of Oregon, comparing the physical features of our state with neighboring states and understand systems like rivers and roads that link Oregon with other states. Students learn about Native Americans who lived in Oregon and North America. They study Oregon natural resources and how they are used globally, and ponder the impact of people on the geography of the area. We study local history of the Eugene/Springfield are and the region.

SCIENCE

Everywhere around us we see evidence of our Creator, and students love exploring it. Using Bob Jones curriculum and other resources we learn about:

- Weather
- Motion and Stability (Forces and interactions)
- Ecosystems
- Heredity
- Engineering Design
- Biological Creation: Unity and Diversity

Hands-on activities, books with colorful pictures and linking Biblical stories keep it lively.

ART

Third graders enjoy a variety of hands-on art activities. Students learn realistic drawing and free-flowing design expression. Activities also relate to areas of study throughout the curriculum and to holidays and seasons. Students learn about the lives and work of famous artists like Monet and Picasso in Art Literacy lessons.

ELECTIVES: Elementary students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of subject areas to develop their own interests and abilities. For 2017-18, ECS elementary students rotate through the following topics: computer technology, creative arts, musical theatre, missionary studies, Spanish, and STEM.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Elementary Physical Education is designed to teach fundamental movement skills in a safe, cooperative learning environment. An emphasis is placed on developing hand-eye, foot-eye, and spatial awareness skills. Sportsmanship, team-work, and strategies are integrated throughout the curriculum.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Students participate in gathering supplies and packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child and take a field trip with another class to deliver the boxes to the local Collection Center. We continue to pray for the boxes as they make their journeys to their receiving children somewhere on the globe.

FIELD TRIPS

In addition to the Operation Christmas Child field trip, we often take a Music field trip to the Hult Center to learn about the orchestra. A team of students attends the Math Olympics, a regional ACSI competition. Some years we go on an Art field trip, a service field trip to a nearby residential facility or an outdoor adventure. This year we will go on a local/regional history field trip.

Third Grade is the best!