

## **Eagle Ridge Academy Third Grade**

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

### **Students will receive instruction in the following areas during Third Grade:**

**Language Arts:** Our reading program instruction is done through guided reading, read-alouds, and center work. We use STEP assessment for assigning students guided reading levels and charting reading growth. We use Shurley English for writing and grammar. Students also use Wordly Wise for vocabulary development.

**Benchmarks:** In reading, students will work on reading comprehension and response; study poetry; fictional stories, myths and mythical characters; and literary terms. In writing, students will produce a variety of writing (stories, reports, friendly letters, poems, descriptions, paragraphs); work on basic research skills; learn parts of a formal composition; work on paragraph writing, editing and revising skills; study vocabulary (prefixes, suffixes, homophones, abbreviations) and work on spelling, grammar and usage. They will also learn sayings and phrases.

**History and Geography:** The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes, geographic tools); geographical terms and features; Canada; important rivers of the world; Ancient Rome (geography of the region, background, the Empire, the decline and fall of Rome, the Eastern Roman Empire: Byzantine Civilization); the Vikings; the earliest Americans (crossing the Land Bridge, Native Americans); early exploration of North America (Spanish exploration and settlement, exploration and settlement in the American Southwest, the search for the Northwest Passage); and the Thirteen Colonies before the Revolution (geography, Southern colonies, New England colonies, Middle Atlantic colonies).

**Visual Arts:** The topics will include the elements of light, space in artworks, and design (how the elements work together); American Indian Art; and the art of the Ancient Rome and Byzantine civilizations.

**Music:** The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); music notation; listening and understanding (the orchestra, composers and their music, musical connections); playing the recorder; singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

**Mathematics:** We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging student at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operations; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning and Connections.

**Benchmarks:** The topics will include numbers and number sense; fractions and decimals; money; computation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division); solving problems and equation; measurement (linear measurement, weight, capacity, temperature, time); and geometry.

**Science:** In Science, teachers follow the FOSS science kits which create a hands-on, lab approach to developing science skills.

**Benchmarks:** The topics will include classification of animals; the human body (muscular system, skeletal system, nervous system, vision, and hearing); light and optics; sound; ecology; astronomy; and science biographies.

**Latin:** Students will receive weekly instruction in Latin vocabulary, derivatives, grammar and culture.

**Physical Education:** Students in third grade receive instruction in physical education three times a week.