



3rd Grade

Program Overview

Update: August 26, 2015

In third most students have become fluent readers and writers will read chapter books for pleasure. Books in a series often draw these students into extending their independent reading. Our balanced literacy approach provides a solid framework of integration between all language arts skills. Comprehension and vocabulary skills continue to grow. Supplemental core stories also allow integration of biblical principles, science, social studies, health, art, and other subjects. Technology skills are developed as learning tools. Specialists teach your child Mandarin, visual arts, performing arts, physical education, and library media skills. Each has a key part in your child's week.

The vision of the Morrison Academy educators is that a maturing Morrison student will be a(n),

Moral and ethical citizen,

- make ethical decisions from a Biblical perspective
- respect persons of other ages, races, cultures, faiths, and values
- demonstrate self-control in attitude and behavior

Spiritual discerner

- appreciate who God is and His provision for reconciliation through Jesus Christ
- apply Biblical principles and values into life situations
- accept his/her self-worth as God's creation

Critical and Creative Thinker

- analyze, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize concepts within various contexts
- utilize mathematics to problem-solve effectively
- create original products and works with high standards

Life-long learner

- maintain intellectual curiosity
- utilize the scientific inquiry method
- utilize technology appropriately

Effective communicator

- read and write skillfully and purposefully
- demonstrate competence in speaking and listening
- contribute to groups collaboratively with interpersonal skills

Wise and Responsible Steward

- serve others generously and compassionately
- maintain disciplined health habits
- appreciate the performing and visual arts

Language Arts

Students are created in God's image with the unique ability to communicate, create, and express ideas. The language arts develop these abilities to understand and influence God's world for His glory. Therefore, Morrison offers a balanced language arts approach that teaches students to read with fluency and comprehension, evaluate text and media with discernment, listen with understanding and compassion, speak with conviction and effect, and write with clarity and persuasion. (O'Malley 1999)

In Grade 3 most students have become fluent readers and gain independence in reading, writing, and the use of technology. Comprehension and vocabulary skills continue to grow as students use thinking and word analysis strategies more independently. Students use process writing and apply traits of good writing to produce their own stories, paragraphs, and research projects. Students begin to do more research independently as well as develop presentation skills to showcase learning. The transition to cursive handwriting begins this year as well.

Science

Morrison's science program seeks to help students gain knowledge of God through the study of His creation. This is accomplished with an activity-oriented program where teachers and students think analytically and logically, solve problems creatively, and use technology as a tool. Morrison endeavors to help students acquire developmentally appropriate concepts and science skills to make positive contributions as Christians in an increasingly scientific and technological society.

Students will discover that energy and matter have multiple forms and can be changed from one form to another. They will also examine that light has a source and travels in a direction and consider that adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival. As they look at the topic of space, they will learn that objects in the sky move in regular and predictable patterns. Students are asked to create meaningful questions and conduct careful investigations.

Guidance

The program provides a biblically-based program that is available to all students, teachers/staff and parents helping them to recognize their uniqueness as individuals in Christ. Morrison seeks to provide a primarily proactive and preventative program which enables students to fulfill God's purpose in their lives by maturing spiritually, emotionally, academically, physically and socially.

Students will begin to understand how to take initiative in working independently as well as developing skills to help them work cooperatively. They will focus on learning communication skills, verbal and non-verbal, in order to be a responsible friend and maintain healthy relationships. Safety issues are also covered: appropriate physical contact; safety rules for home, school, and community; and risky and potentially harmful behaviors. Students are taught about the process of transition and the changes that occur.

Math

Morrison Academy strives to develop students who obtain a mastery of, and appreciation for, the content and processes of mathematics, as well as an understanding of how mathematics relates to other domains in life. While the study of mathematics occurs mostly within finite creation, it points us towards the character of an infinite God who values logic, order and consistency. Therefore, the purpose of mathematical instruction at Morrison is to develop students whose mastery of content includes insight into logical processes that will enable students to make meaningful connections to a world of order and help them transfer math concepts to other domains consistent to life. Such tangible engagement with math will help Morrison's students dynamically impact their world for Christ.

In Grade 3, instructional time shifts to a focus on fractions, along with a conceptual understanding of multiplication and division.

The critical areas are:

- (1) developing understanding of and strategies for multiplication and division within 100
- (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1)
- (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area
- (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.

Physical Education/Health

All people are creations of God designed to know and glorify Him through their lives and action. Therefore, Morrison's physical education program recognizes that our bodies are temples of God to be appropriately cared for and used in developing a mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually balanced life.

Students will continue to develop their motor skills by using games and age-appropriate movement drills. As they participate in structured "team oriented" sports such as soccer, softball, and basketball, students will experience and discuss issues related to participation, personal fitness, and an appreciation of a healthy and active lifestyle. The skills they worked on at this stage are further developed and reinforced when they advance to the middle school levels. PE at grade 3-5 also aims to develop a biblical understanding exercise and playing in a team sport.

Mandarin Chinese

God has given us the gift of language to communicate with Him, ourselves, and others. Morrison's Mandarin Chinese program is a foreign language program that equips all students to communicate more effectively in a global context to better impact their world as Christians. This is done through a unit-driven curricular program that teaches all students the four basic tenets (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) of communication as well as Chinese culture and Christian concepts.

Teachers use high yield instructional strategies, a variety of materials, teaching styles, and enriching activities that are age-appropriate, promote higher order thinking, relevant, and integrate technology and faith.

Library Media Skills

Morrison Academy recognizes that people are gifted by God with the ability to inquire, gain knowledge, and delight in the creativity of others. Morrison Academy library program strives to equip students to enjoy information by teaching them how to use information effectively. The Library Media Center will support students by providing opportunities to become critical thinkers, life-long learners, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

The third grade library media class will give the students a working knowledge of library terminology and an awareness of outside resources. Students will compare a variety of genres and will be able to use answers to produce a final product. Students will learn that people communicate and connect online.

Bible

God is the source of all truth, and the Bible is God's special revelation for all humanity. Through it we are introduced to the life of faith and the redemption offered to all in Christ Jesus. We comprehensively teach the Bible to foster biblical literacy, develop spiritual discernment, and equip students with a Christian worldview resulting in students who are transformed by the Holy Spirit and willing to be obedient to God's truth. Bible education aims to encourage each student to love God and to serve others.

communities enhances students' academic learning, a natural outworking of biblical truth.

Third graders study the life of Christ and the early church. Through the gospels, students learn and apply principles from the teachings of Jesus, His parables, His miracles, and events of His life. Moving into Acts, they see the building of God's Church as the gospel spreads through the missionary journeys of Paul and realize their part in God's plan for the Church.

The Morrison Academy Bible Curriculum: 5 strands

- *Biblical Literacy*-Students will know basic content of the Bible: stories about Old and New Testament characters, chronology, cultural and historical background, recurring themes and topics.
- *Spiritual Discernment*-Students will be able to appreciate who God is and accept one's self worth as God's creation, while distinguishing right from wrong.
- *Biblical Worldview*-Bible classes not only impart biblical and theological knowledge but use it as the basis of a biblical worldview which is used to explore the world.
- *Christian Character*-Through the teaching of the Bible we desire to see the love of God perfected in our students so that they know God, obey God's commands and love others.
- *Christian Service*-Beginning in middle school, intentional, hands-on service to local and global

Social Studies

Social studies instruction at Morrison unites two important elements:

- ***Acquiring a solid knowledge base of historical, geographical, civic, economic, and cultural concepts.***
- ***Acquiring a social studies skill set to apply knowledge to situations using a global Christian perspective.***

Morrison's social studies program seeks to develop students who can influence the kingdoms of mankind as critically-thinking citizens of the Kingdom of God. We provide developmentally appropriate instruction through a balance of inquiry learning and direct teaching. Though implementing a United States based curriculum, we recognize the importance of a global approach to social studies curricula to meet the needs of our diverse population.

Communities

Grade 3 students will learn about the different ways people live, work, and grow together in communities around the world. They will learn about special people that have contributed to communities in the past and present, with a focus on inventions in transportation and communication. They will also begin to learn the basic

principles that form a republican government. Geography skills include an introduction to the concept of latitude and longitude and also how countries are divided into regions, etc. Basic economic principles will also be introduced.

Visual and Performing Arts

Morrison Academy recognizes that students are made in the image of their Creator and that God has endowed them with His creativity and individual gifts. Because training in visual and performing arts is an essential component of educating the whole person, students must be given the opportunity to explore, develop, and enjoy their God-given artistic abilities. Students will learn to express their creativity by experiencing, appreciating and discerning the arts from historical, contemporary and multi-cultural perspectives. Morrison Academy's arts programs endeavor to use the arts to glorify and worship God, equip students to serve His church, and impact their world in a relevant and dynamic way.

Performing Arts

All elementary students receive general music instruction. Emphasis is placed on performance (playing various instruments, singing, improvisation, concert etiquette), notation (melody, rhythm, music symbols, reading music), and music appreciation (history of instruments and composers, folk dance, music of other cultures).

Composition becomes more advanced as students add all rhythmic elements up to 16th notes to their knowledge base. After using Orff instruments for two years, students will have their first experience with a wind instrument,

participating in a recorder ensemble, and also study the instruments of the string family. Students continue to learn about music through dance and movement, and will be able to identify the characteristics of folk songs from other cultures.

Visual Arts

Children who complete the six grade levels of elementary art at Morrison Academy will be able to create art using a variety of art mediums in both the second and third dimensions and identify and use the common elements and principles of art. With confidence, they will create art that *communicates* their own thinking, tells stories, shares ideas, or evokes emotions. They will be led to *appreciate* the work of their peers, the art handed down through history, art from other cultures, and the place of art and artists in their world today.

Third Grade art is a hands-on class building on what students learned and experience in the primary grades. Third grade art students will learn to design, draw, paint, print or stamp, make sculpture and work with clay to create art safely using a variety of art materials and tools. The students will learn to make art that explores form and space, balance and symmetry, secondary and tertiary colors, and many other principles and elements of art. They will use art to communicate and illustrate stories or ideas, and express their interests and experiences. They will make art that teaches them about art from other cultures and from different times in history. They will learn about and use digital technology in art class.

How Parents Can Help

Activities That Support Your Child's Learning

- Read to and with your child daily, asking questions about what is being read
- Praise your child's reading efforts
- Encourage older children to read to their younger siblings
- Model the importance of reading by being a reader yourself
- Talk and listen to your child
- Help your child keep a writing notebook or journal with entries once or twice a week
- Provide a quiet place for homework and study
- Help your child capitalize on his learning style
- Allow your child as much independence as he proves he can handle
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers
- Celebrate successes
- Create special times to be alone with your child to participate in activities (cooking dinner, working in the shop, etc.)
- Take your child to places and talk about the visit(s)
- Read poems and songs; encourage your child to memorize the words
- Tell your child family stories, especially events that happened when you were his/her age
- Watch television with your child and discuss the programs together; limit viewing time; choose programs with care
- Play memory and math games, vocabulary games, physical games
- Talk with your child about the school work he/she brings home
- Give your child responsibilities such as bed making and picking up personal belongings
- Communicate your expectations regarding his/her behavior and performance at school

"Fathers, do not make your children angry, but raise them with the training and teaching of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (ICB)