
Curriculum Overview

Grade 3

The Grade 3 program is the final primary year at The Maples School. The curriculum consolidates the basic skills of language and math and encourages greater independence and maintains good work habits. This document is an overview of the curriculum to which your child will be exposed. The Maples Curriculum is designed to enhance the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum expectations.



The Maples

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Visual Arts

Knowledge of Elements

- recognize and name the warm (red, orange, yellow) and cool (purple, green, blue) colours, and describe their emotional impact (e.g., a warm colour scheme may make people feel warmer)
- identify characteristics of a variety of lines

Creative Work

- produce more complex two- and three-dimensional works of art
- identify strengths and areas for improvement in their own and others' art work

Critical Thinking

- identify the similarities and differences in content between two or more works
- state their preference for a specific work and defend their choice

Drama and Dance

- describe basic elements of drama and dance (e.g., suspense, pattern, energy)
- create short dance pieces
- interpret and communicate the meaning of stories, poems and plays, and other material drawn from a range of sources and cultures, using basic drama and dance techniques
- compare their own work with the work of others in drama and dance through discussion, writing, movement, and visual art work

Values

The Values curriculum is a school-wide program with the following components:

Social Skills

The *Working It Out* program is designed to help students develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to address everyday conflicts constructively and peacefully.

Character Education

"Old Testament Heroes"

- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, Joseph
 - characteristics of leadership, obedience, faithfulness, truthfulness, forgiveness and perseverance
- Jonah, Samson, Daniel
 - study the theme of actions and consequences

"Parables for Kids"

- contemporary stories with modern-day lessons for children to learn based on the traditional parables of the New Testament

Service Project

Students will organize a fundraiser to fund a "Physician Travel Pack" for medical needs in Latin America.

World Religion

Students will study the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

Social Studies

Heritage and Citizenship – Pioneer Life

- identify early settlers and their origins, and describe their lives and contributions
- describe the major components of a pioneer village or settlement (grist mill, church, school, general store, blacksmith's shop)
- identify the Aboriginal peoples located in Upper Canada at the time of first settlement
- identify the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to pioneer settlement (e.g., medicine, food, and exploration)
- describe Aboriginal communities prior to pioneer settlement

Canada and World Connections –

Urban and Rural Communities

- name and locate the various physical regions, provinces, and territories of Canada and identify the chief natural resources of each
- use a variety of resources and tools to determine the influence of physical factors on the economies and cultures of Ontario and the other provinces and territories
- identify, analyse, and describe economic and cultural relationships that link communities and regions within Ontario and across Canada.

Physical and Health Education

Students will perform the basic movement skills required to participate in physical activities: locomotion/travelling, manipulation and stability, and will demonstrate the principles of movement using each. They will also learn the basic skills and rules for a variety of team and individual sports.

Health topics include

- *Healthy Eating*
 - describe the benefits of healthy food choices, physical activity and healthy bodies
- *Personal Safety and Injury Prevention*
 - identify examples of real and fictional violence
- *Growth and Development*
 - describe basic changes from birth to childhood
- *Substance Use and Abuse*
 - define the term drug and identify a variety of legal and illegal drugs

Music

Technique

- emphasis on "good" singing in the proper register
- introduction to the recorder

Rhythmic Elements

- major syncopation
- sixteenth notes connected to eighth notes

Melodic Elements

- add diatonic notes, *fa* and *ti* with hand signs and notation
- identify keys of C, G, D, F and B-flat

Content

- wide variety of repertoire
- sequential recorder music

English

The language program is organized to develop basic skills in the following three strands:

Reading

The students will:

- read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials from basal readers, chapter books, non-fiction books and reading labs
- read aloud fluently
- read independently, using a variety of strategies
- express clear responses to questions
- understand vocabulary and language structures appropriate for the grade

Writing

The students will:

- write for a variety of purposes (e.g. journal writing, responses to questions, research reports, letters, stories, poems)
- use short paragraphs, compound sentences and sentences of varied lengths
- use proof reading skills
- use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation conventions
- use cursive writing

Oral and Visual Communication

The students will:

- communicate messages, and follow and give directions for a variety of activities and events
- listen to discussions and ask questions to clarify meaning
- retell stories, demonstrating an understanding of basic story structure and including information about characters, action, and story ending
- talk about characters and situations in stories, and information and ideas in non-fiction materials

English is a cross-curricular subject. Teachers will use the topics studied in Social Studies, Science, etc. to complement the English program.

Novels studied in grade 3 are selected from, but not limited to, the list below. An evaluation of both the readers' interests and comprehension skills are considered when novels are chosen.

Canoe Diary
Canada Geese Quilt
Stuart Little
The Sign of the Beaver
The Freezing Moon
Sarah, Plain and Tall
Ramona Quimby, Age 8

Pirate Pie
Charlotte's Web
The Courage of Sarah Noble
Farmer Boy
Ellie's New Home
Little House in the Big Woods

In addition to the formal novel studies, the students are expected to read and present reports on several supplementary novels throughout the year.

Mathematics

The mathematics curriculum is organized into five major areas of knowledge and skills.

Number Sense and Numeration

- read, represent, compare and order whole numbers to 1000 and use concrete materials to represent fractions and money amounts to \$10
- demonstrate an understanding of magnitude by counting forward and backwards by various numbers and from various starting points
- solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of single and multi-digit whole numbers, using a variety of strategies, and demonstrate an understanding of multiplication and division

Geometry and Spatial Sense

- compare two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional figures and sort them by their geometric properties
- describe relationships between two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional figures
- identify and describe the locations and movements of shapes and objects

Measurement

- estimate, measure, and record length, perimeter, area, mass, capacity, time and temperature using standard units
- compare, describe and order objects using attributes measured in standard units

Patterning and Algebra

- describe and create a variety of numeric patterns and geometric patterns
- demonstrate and understanding of equality between pairs of expressions, using addition and subtraction of one and two digit numbers

Data Management and Probability

- collect and organize primary data and display the data using charts and graphs, including vertical and horizontal bar graphs, with labels ordered appropriately along horizontal axes
- predict and investigate the frequency of a specific outcome in a simple probability experiment

French

The objectives of the program are to give the students confidence in their ability to express themselves, expand their language knowledge and learn about the French culture in Canada.

- to listen attentively to recognize sentence structures
- express themselves using known vocabulary, structures and forms
- read simple stories
- write simple sentences
- nouns, verbs, adjectives, correct sentence structures, masculine/feminine agreement
- conjugation of verbs

Science and Technology

Students are given opportunities to “experience” and learn about the wonders of science and the world around them.

Life Systems

Growth and Changes in Plants

- demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences in the physical characteristics of different plant species and the changes that take place in different plants as they grow
- investigate the requirements of plants and the effects of changes in environmental conditions on plants

Matter and Materials

Magnetic and Charged Materials

- demonstrate an understanding of the properties of materials that can be magnetized or charged and of how materials are affected by magnets or static electric charges
- identify and describe, using their observations, ways in which static electric charges are made in everyday materials

Energy and Control

Forces and Movement

- demonstrate an understanding of how movement is caused by forces and by energy that is stored and then released
- investigate how different forces affect the operation of everyday devices

Structures and Mechanisms

Stability

- demonstrate an understanding of the factors that affect the stability of objects
- design and make structures that include mechanisms and that can support and move a load, and investigate the forces acting on them

Earth and Space Systems

Soils and the Environment

- demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences between various soils and the effects of moving water on soils
- investigate the components of various soils

Science Week

- Students will participate in a centre-based activity day designed to promote interest in the various fields of Science

Computer Education

The use of computers is encouraged and implemented in all subject areas. Computer instruction includes

- **Keyboarding** - identify the functions of appropriate keys on the computer keyboard and begin to use correct fingering
- **Word Processing** - begin to use the vocabulary of word processing software
- **Graphics** - select and move an image
- **Multimedia** - browse text, pictures and sound on a CD ROM
- **Electronic Communications** - access to and responsible use of the internet; students will be familiar with the school website