### What’s Changing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Look for in the</th>
<th>What Can You Do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Your child will <strong>read more non-fiction</strong> in each grade level.</td>
<td>• Read non-fiction books with your child. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child <strong>learn about the world through reading.</strong></td>
<td>• Ask your librarian what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your child will <strong>read challenging texts very closely</strong>, so they can make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions.</td>
<td>• Provide more challenging texts for your child to read. Show them how to figure out the author’s meaning by rereading difficult parts of texts and talking with you about them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will <strong>use “evidence” gathered from the text to support what they say.</strong></td>
<td>• Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your child will <strong>learn how to write from what they read.</strong></td>
<td>• Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your child will have <strong>an increased academic vocabulary.</strong></td>
<td>• Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What’s Changing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Look for in the</th>
<th>What Can You Do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Look for your child to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories.</td>
<td>• Read non-fiction books with your child. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Look for your child to bring home more fact-based books about the world. Fifty percent of the selections in the K-6 core reading program are non-fiction.</td>
<td>• Ask your librarian what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Your child will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book.</td>
<td>• Provide more challenging texts for your child to read. Show them how to figure out the author’s meaning by rereading difficult parts of texts and talking with you about them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students will be asked to reread in order to understand more deeply</td>
<td>• Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Look for writing assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support an answer, response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions (“What do you think?”) that have been used in the past.</td>
<td>• Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Look for assignments that stretch your child’s vocabulary and teach the wealth of words available to express our thoughts and ideas.</td>
<td>• Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Look for assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence to support their opinions.</td>
<td>• Use ‘academic’ words in daily conversations with your child.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Visalia Unified School District**

“We Create Futures”

**Common Core Standards Parent Brochure**

**Visalia Unified Schools**

5000 W. Cypress Ave
Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: 559.730.7555

Tamara Ravalin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Sarah Seymore
Curriculum Director

**Board of Education**

John L. Crabtree
Niessen E. Foster
William A. Fulmer
Walta S. Gamoian
Juan R. Guerrero
Joy M. Naylor
Lucia D. Vazquez

vusd.org

---

Common Core Standards Parent Handbook - © 2011 California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Third grade students interact with literature and informational text by comparing and contrasting stories, distinguishing their own point of view from the author’s, and describing a series of events, ideas, or concepts. Along with their reading, third grade writing is more sophisticated. Students produce developed, focused, organized, and edited work. In writing informational pieces, they include charts or graphs and supply facts.

Reading
- Describe how characters’ actions contribute to the events
- Compare and contrast themes, settings, and plots of stories
- Independently read and understand grade-level literature
- Describe a series of events, ideas, or concepts
- Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or characters

Reading: Foundational Skills
- Use grade-level phonics and word analysis skills
  - Read words with multiple syllables, e.g., mosquito, puppeteer
- Know the meanings of most common prefixes and suffixes
- Read accurately and with understanding

Writing
- Write opinion pieces that include a chart or graph and list reasons that support the opinion
- Write informative pieces that name the topic, supply facts, and use linking words and phrases
- Write narrative pieces that introduce a narrator and characters, and write about what the characters say, think, and feel
- Produce writing that is developed, focused, organized, and edited

Speaking and Listening
- Follow rules for discussions by building on what others are saying
- Recall ideas and details from something read aloud
- Plan and deliver an informative presentation
- Speak clearly and in complete sentences

Language
- Use correct grammar
- Write legibly in cursive or joined italics; use margins and spacing
- Choose words and phrases for effect
- Use a variety of sentence types
- Capitalize appropriate words
- Correctly add suffixes to base words
- Recognize the differences between spoken and written standard English

MATHEMATICS

Third grade students develop an understanding of multiplication and division and learn to fluently multiply and divide within 100. Students are expected to know from memory all products of two one-digit numbers by the end of third grade. Place value understanding is used for multi-digit computation and estimation. Fractions are introduced in the third grade with an emphasis on understanding fractions as numbers and their relative size and placement on the number line. In third grade students understand concepts of area and perimeter and solve problems using liquid volume and mass.

- Solve multiplication and division word problems
- Understand the properties of multiplication
  - Commutative property of multiplication: If you know $6 \times 4 = 24$, then you know $4 \times 6 = 24$.
  - Associative property of multiplication: $3 \times 5 \times 2$ can be found by $3 \times 5 = 15$, then $15 \times 2 = 30$, or by $5 \times 2 = 10$, then $3 \times 10 = 30$.
  - Distributive property of multiplication: If $8 \times 5 = 40$ and $8 \times 2 = 16$, then $8 \times 7$ is:
    $$8 \times (5 + 2) = (8 \times 5) + (8 \times 2) = 40 + 16 = 56.$$
- Fluently multiply and divide within 100
- Know all products of two one-digit numbers
- Solve word problems with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understand that multiplication and division are related
- Use place value to round numbers and know the value of each digit in a four-digit number
- Use place value understanding to solve multi-digit arithmetic
- Estimate reasonable answers using place value knowledge
- Understand fractions as numbers
- Recognize simple equivalent fractions
- Compare two fractions with the same numerator or the same denominator
- Know that 25 cents is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a dollar, 50 cents is $\frac{1}{2}$ of a dollar and 75 cents is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a dollar
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute
- Estimate and measure time, volume, and weight
- Understand area and perimeter
- Understand that shapes in different categories can also be in a larger category