



School Year 2018-2019
Class Syllabus

Goals:

- The goal of the third grade language program is for students to be able to produce clear and concise writing that allows the reader to comprehend the student's purpose and thought process.
- The goal of the third grade social studies program is to introduce students to the concept of citizenship—both in their country and in their communities.
- The goal of the third grade science program is to introduce students to life science, earth science and physical science in an effort to prepare them for the sciences that they will encounter in the upper grades.

Language Overview: To be taught all 4 quarters

Grade 3 Signature Language Arts

This program provides an extended introduction to writing by emphasizing clarity in writing and basic mechanical rules. The program is designed to teach students that writing is a process by which you write first and then edit. By the end of third grade, students will be able to look at writing as a process that gives the reader a clear picture of what the writer is trying to convey.

Social Studies Overview: To be taught quarters 1 & 2

Baltimore City Public Schools Social Studies Program

This program introduces students to their place within history. Students will learn where they are geographically located in the world, the significance of their state and city, and their responsibilities and rights as citizens of the United States of America, the world, and their community.

Science Overview: To be taught quarters 3 & 4

FOSS

This program serves as an introduction to life science, earth science and physical science at the third grade level. Students will learn about scientific concepts and procedures via inquiry-based instruction, engineering projects, labs and demonstrations. Specifically, students will engage in investigations, during which time they will record their findings, read texts and complete assessments that monitor their progress.

Supplies:

Students are expected to bring all necessary materials to class to ensure that they are prepared to learn. In language, social studies, and science, students need to have the following **every day**:

- Homework folder
- HHA agenda

Classroom Rules:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe
5. Be yourself

Student Behavior and Consequences:

All students are expected to follow Hampstead Hill Academy's school-wide expectations, which state that students are to be respectful, responsible, safe, caring, and friendly. Consequences of not meeting expectations will result in the following:

- Two verbal warnings
- Think Time (a reflection paper will be completed by the student and sent home for a parent to review and sign. If a think time paper is not signed and returned, the parent or guardian will be contacted, and the student will receive a lunch detention. However, students who choose to improve their behavior before the end of the class period may not have their think time papers sent home—this decision will be made at the discretion of the teacher.)
- After school detention (parents will be notified by phone before 2 p.m. if a detention needs to be served that day)
- Office referral

Grading Policy:

Language Grading Policy

- 60% Assessments
 - Please note that 90% and above is considered a passing grade.
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

Social Studies Grading Policy

- 60% Assessments
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

Science Grading Policy

- 60% Assessments
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

Homework: Regular homework will be assigned four times per week, Monday—Thursday. Homework will always require students to apply a skill set that they have previously learned, practiced in class and which will be assessed in the near future. Homework is largely graded for completion; students will be deducted one point for their homework grade each week for missing assignments. In order to maintain high expectations, homework will be graded for accuracy periodically.

Extra-Credit Work:

There is no extra-credit work assigned. Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

Make-up/Missing Work:

Make-up work can be completed upon the student's return. Students will have as many days to complete the missing work as days they were absent.

Coach Class:

Coach Class will be held before school on Thursdays from 7:30AM – 8:00AM. This will be a time for the teacher to meet with students who need additional assistance and support with material learned in class or with homework. All students are welcome to attend coach class, but must sign up beforehand in one of ten spots.

Additionally, students will have opportunities to have working lunches on Tuesdays and Thursdays with prior teacher approval.

Late Policy:

Students are expected to complete all homework assignments the night the homework was assigned and handed out, unless otherwise specified. All homework handed in one day late will receive ½ credit. All homework handed in more than one day late will not receive credit.

Course Overview:

Signature Language Arts, Grade 3

- Sentence Analysis
- Mechanics
- Editing
- Reporting
- Inferring
- Clarity
- Expanded Writing Process

Language classwork typically consists of a workbook assignment and a written textbook assignment. Students will receive a classwork grade for all paragraph assignments. Participation will be factored into the student effort grade. Language tests are administered every ten lessons, roughly every three to four weeks. All graded tests and writing assignments will be sent home for parents to review. Parents can also check Infinite Campus and/or email me if grades are a concern.

BCPSS Social Studies: Unit Topics

- The Face of American Cities
- How Cities Began and How They Grew
- How Cities Govern
- Baltimore City at Work

Social studies classwork will take the form of worksheets, graphic organizers, station activities, study review games, notes and exit slips. Outside of class, students may be assigned projects, test prep and worksheets to help them better understand the concepts taught and practiced during class. Participation will be factored into the effort grade. Quizzes will be administered after completing each chapter of a unit. Once graded, all assessments will be sent home. Parents can also check Infinite Campus or email me with any grade concerns.

FOSS Science: Unit Topics

- Motion and Matter
- Water and Climate
- Structures of Life

Science will consist of classwork, tests and sometimes homework in the form of projects, papers and test/quiz prep. Classwork, comprised of graphic organizers, white board games, lab reports, research papers and exit slips, will be assigned on a daily basis. Participation will be factored into the effort grade. Science homework will be assigned on an as needed basis. Homework in the form of a study guide, flash cards or another type of review will always be assigned before a unit test or chapter quiz. Tests will be administered after completing each chapter of a unit. All tests will be sent home. Parents can also check Infinite Campus or email me with any grade concerns.

Portfolios:

Students will each maintain a portfolio of their work in the classroom. One piece of work from each class will be submitted into this portfolio each quarter. Families are welcome to view this portfolio during classroom visits or conferences.

Field Trips:

1. Musical at Goucher College: [*My Mouth is a Volcano!*](#)
2. Walters Art Museum
3. TBD

Parent Portal:

Parents can access the parent portal to view student classwork, tests and homework grades. In addition, tests and most classwork will be sent home for parents to review. Parents can also check Infinite Campus to view their child's progress. The gradebook is updated daily.

Teacher Bio:

Mrs. Sparwasser started teaching at Hampstead Hill Academy in 2018 after teaching middle school English and reading interventions for seven years. She graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Masters in Reading Instruction from Goucher College in 2016. She is originally from Maryland's Eastern Shore, but now lives in Baltimore.