



International Community School

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Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA



**Elementary School
Curriculum Guide
2011/2012**

**3
GRADE**

Mission Statement

The International Community School of Addis Ababa, accredited in the United States, develops the talents and intellects of a multicultural student body using learner-centered, holistic instructional methods, empowering each student to contribute in an evolving world.

Introduction

Each guide offers an overview of your child's grade-level curriculum this year. They provide the content and major learning objectives in each subject area including Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Specials classes. Please keep in mind that this is an ever-evolving document to maintain and further develop excellent practices in education. More detailed information about your child's learning will go home from your child's teacher over the course of the year. If you would like more information on the Elementary Program, please see the Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook.

Language Arts

By the end of the school year, all students should be able to:

- Write a clear, well-organized report using at least two sources of information.
- Identify main ideas and supporting details in fiction and nonfiction informational texts.
- Compare and contrast information on one topic from two different sources.
- Take notes to record data, facts, and ideas.
- Develop original stories that contain characters, plot, setting, and dialogue.
- Use note-taking and graphic organizers to record and organize information and ideas recalled from books read aloud.
- Determine the meaning of new grade-level words using phonics and word structures (such as root words, verb endings, plurals, and contractions)
- Learn new vocabulary and concepts by reading books and using a dictionary and a thesaurus.
- Edit written work independently for spelling and conventional capitalization and punctuation.
- Read and understand written directions.

Mathematics

In Everyday Mathematics, children develop a broad background by learning concepts and skills in all these six content strands.

The Grade 3 program emphasizes the following content:

Numeration

Counting patterns; place-value; reading and writing whole numbers through 1,000,000; fractions, decimals, and integers

Operations and Computation

Multiplication and division facts extended to multi-digit problems; working with properties; operations with fractions and money

Data and Chance

Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs; exploring concepts of chance

Measurement and Reference Forms

Recording equivalent units of length; recognizing appropriate units of measure for various items; finding the areas of rectangles; using multiplication arrays, coordinate grids, thermometers, and map scales to estimate distances

Patterns, Functions and Algebra

Finding patterns on the number grid solving Frames-and-Arrows puzzles having two rules; completing variations of "What's My Rule?" activities; exploring the relationship between multiplication and division; using parentheses in writing number models; naming missing parts of number models

Geometry

Exploring 2- and 3- dimensional shapes and other geometric concepts

Science

Science in Grade 3 investigates the scientific nature of water as well as plant growth and development.

By the end of end of the year, all students should be able to:

- Conduct investigations and record observations in writing, pictures and graphs.
- Identify and understand the anatomy of a seed, plant, and flower.
- Observe, compare and discuss changes occurring in plants overtime.
- Develop an awareness of the interaction between plants and animals.
- Know the properties of water in liquid, solid and gaseous states.
- Investigate how water can be used to do work and understand the importance of water in their lives.
- Consider the water quality of local water sources.
- Observe the expansion and contraction of water as it warms and cools.
- Investigate factors that influence evaporation and condensation of water.
- Describe how water moves through different types of earth materials.

Social Studies

In Grade 3 social studies, students explore the geography and culture of Ethiopia.

By the end of the year, all students should be able to:

- Know the geographic landforms of Ethiopia.
- Locate the various regions and important cities of Ethiopia on a map.
- Understand Ethiopian concepts of culture (i.e., art, food, religion, language).
- Compare and contrast the cultural characteristics of different regions and people of Ethiopia.
- Explain how cultures meet human needs and concerns.
- Understand that cultures have different expectations of how to act.
- Apply their understanding of Ethiopian cultural arts, crafts, music and language to projects.

Specials

Art

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Elementary students engage in a wide variety of art making practices and techniques. Art history and cultural perspectives are incorporated into all projects so that students may gain an appreciation for art in many forms. Students in grades 3-5 focus on creative thinking skills, while also learning more advanced technical skills and connecting their artwork to interdisciplinary themes.

PE

The Physical Education program provides each child an opportunity to experience student-centered instructional activities that enable him/her to acquire the skills and attitudes necessary to enjoy an active and healthy life style. The program for students in grades 3-5 focuses on reinforcement of fundamental movement skills as well as the development of health and skills related to physical fitness. Students are introduced to activities involving greater motor task complexity, individual and team games, gymnastics and rhythms.

Technology

The elementary computer program aligns with the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS). Students in grades 3-5 learn advanced technology operations and focus on collaboration, research, critical thinking and problem solving. All IT classes are integrated with other subjects areas which allow students to better understand how the use of technology can be applied in different situations, in and outside of the classroom.

French

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The main objectives of the Elementary French program are to help each child attain a degree of proficiency in listening and speaking French in an informal and relaxed environment and to express themselves with increasing confidence, independence and creativity. A dynamic and lively program entitled "Alex et Zoé" is used in grades 3-5 to encourage every student to practice the language according to each level: Beginner Level 1, Beginner Level 2, Beginner Level 3. For students whom French is their native language or who have some proficiency, an appropriate program can be designed for them.

Music

Elementary music students are actively engaged in analyzing, listening to, creating and performing music. Students understand musical concepts such as melody, rhythm, harmony, and form by composing their own pieces on classroom instruments, learning a variety of notation systems and learning musical compositions from around the world. Students in grades 3-5 have many chances to perform in percussion ensembles, learn the recorder, and compose their own pieces using computer software technology. Multiple opportunities to perform are available throughout the school year.