

Introduction

We are pleased to provide this overview of the third grade academic program at Lexis Prep. Our carefully developed curriculum provides Lexis Prep students with a strong college-prep education in the setting of personalized instruction.

The following guide gives an overall picture of what a Lexis Prep student will learn in third grade. The individual learner and classroom needs will determine how the guide is implemented in the classroom.



English Language Arts and Reading



Students at Lexis Prep benefit from an English Language Arts and Reading curriculum that teaches students not just how to read and write, but also the meaning and purpose of what they are learning. The Lexis Prep curriculum utilizes the *Imagine It!* program which is correlated to the national standards put forth by the National Reading Panel. This curriculum includes the areas of: Foundational Skills; Literature; Informational Text; Language; Speaking and Listening; and Writing. The standards offer a focus for instructional practices and strategies and help ensure students gain adequate exposure to a range of learning opportunities.

The *Imagine It!* English Language Arts and Reading program thoroughly addresses the five key areas of reading: phonemic awareness; systematic, explicit phonics; fluency; vocabulary; and comprehension. The curriculum lays the foundation of reading skills, provides practice increasing confidence, assesses progress, provides additional help and challenges, guides through inquiry, questioning, investigating and exploring, teaches writing strategies, offers a variety of genres, and bolsters instruction with the use of technology resources.

Reading Standards for Foundational Skills

Phonics and Word Recognition

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words

Fluency

- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Reading Standards for Literature

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text
- Use details in stories, fables, folktales, or myths from diverse cultures and determine lessons or morals
- Describe the main characters in a story and his/her contribution to the sequence of events

Craft and Structure

- Interpret key words and phrases in a text, distinguishing literal from figurative language
- Demonstrate an understanding of the common features of legends, myths, and folk stories

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Use information in illustrations to gain understanding of the setting, characters, and plot
- Compare and contrast the plots, settings, and themes of stories written by the same author

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently literature appropriately complex for second to third grade

Reading Standards for Informational Text

Key Ideas and Details

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by the key details
- Describe the relationship between historical or scientific events or ideas in a text

Craft and Structure

- Determine meanings of general academic language and domain-specific words and phrases
- Use text features (bold print, key words, topic sentences, hyperlinks, electronic menus, icons, etc.)
- Compare what is presented in a text with relevant prior knowledge and beliefs

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- Understand where, when, why, and how of key events using illustrations, print and digital texts
- Describe the logical connection between paragraphs and between sentences in a text
- Compare and contrast information drawn from two texts on the same subject

Range and Level of Text Complexity

- Read independently, proficiently, and fluently informational texts appropriately complex for second to third grade

Language Standards

Conventions in Writing and Speaking

- Observe conventions of grammar and usage
- Observe conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling
- Make effective language choices

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

- Determine word meanings based on third grade reading
- Understand word relationships
- Use words that are common vocabulary acquired through reading and responding to texts

Speaking and Listening Standards

Comprehension and Collaboration

- Initiate and engage in group discussions on third grade topics and texts studied in class
- Identify main ideas and supporting details of information presented graphically, visually, orally, or multi-modally
- Ask and answer questions about presentations, offering appropriate elaboration and detail

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

- Report on a topic or recount stories or experiences with appropriate facts and descriptive details
- Speak coherently, employing a variety of tenses and ensuring grammatical agreement

Writing Standards

Text Types and Purposes

- Write opinions to introduce topic or book(s) and provide reasons, details, links and closure
- Write informative and explanatory texts to introduce a topic with facts, definitions and closure
- Write narratives which recount a well-elaborated event or series of events with closure

Production and Distribution of Writing

- Strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing
- Use technology to produce and publish writing

Research to Build Knowledge

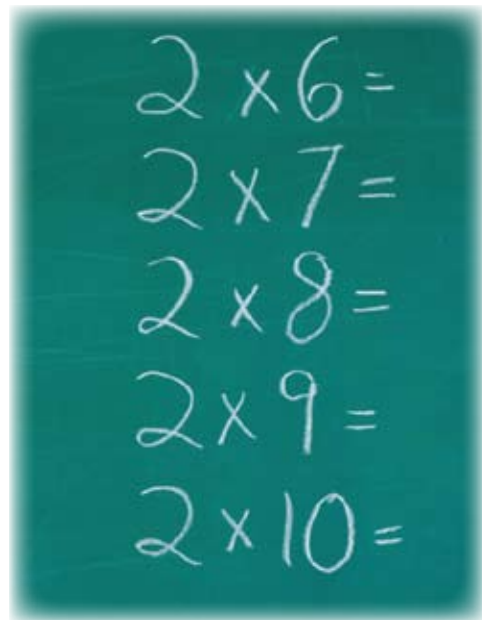
- Perform short, focused research tasks that build knowledge about a topic
- Gather information from experience as well as print and digital resources



Mathematics

The goal of the Lexis Prep K-4 mathematics program is for our students to develop the ability to think and reason mathematically and use mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts. The expectation is that they will achieve mathematical proficiency through the mastery of mathematic skills, concepts, and processes. This goal is met through the opportunity to develop, practice and review concepts over time. Lexis Prep students move from the concrete to the pictorial to the abstract through a deliberate sequence of instruction. Our students' regular exposure to critical thinking and problem solving prepares them for real world applications.

The Lexis Prep mathematics curriculum is aligned with both the National Council for Teaching Mathematics (NCTM) Standards and Benchmarks as well as Saxon Math. The standards outlined below show the general progression of topics over the course of the school year. Parents can be confident their child will receive thorough mathematics instruction.



Lexis Prep Math Standards Correlated with NCTM Standards and Saxon Math

Number and Operations and Algebra

- Develop understanding of multiplication and division for basic multiplication and division
- Understand multiplication and division of whole numbers with multiple representations
- Use properties of addition and multiplication to multiply and divide whole numbers
- Compare solution strategies and relate multiplication and division as inverse operations

Number and Operations

- Develop an understanding of fractions and fraction equivalence
- Develop understanding of meanings and uses of fractions representing parts of a whole
- Understand size of fractional part relative to size of the whole and fractions
- Solve problems comparing and ordering fractions

Number and Operations

- Understand place value of numbers up to 10,000 in various contexts
- Represent numbers in different equivalent forms
- Develop understanding of numbers using mental computation

Geometry

- Describe and analyze properties of two-dimensional shapes
- Describe, analyze, compare, and classify two dimensional shapes
- Investigate, describe, and reason decomposing, combining, and transforming polygons
- Build, draw, and analyze two-dimensional shapes
- Understand attributes and properties of two-dimensional space and the use of those attributes and properties in solving problems, including congruence and symmetry

Algebra

- Understand properties and relationship between multiplication and division as part of algebra
- Create and analyze patterns and relationships involving multiplication and division

Measurement

- Understand fractions as problems in linear measurement
- Develop facility in measuring with fractional parts of linear units
- Develop measurement concepts and skills analyzing attributes of two dimensional objects
- Understand perimeter as a measurable attribute
- Select appropriate units, strategies, and tools to solve problems involving perimeter

Data Analysis

- Use basic computation of whole numbers to construct and analyze frequency tables, bar graphs, picture graphs, and line plots and use them to solve problems

Science



The Lexis Prep science program provides students with opportunities to think and act like scientists. Lexis Prep students acquire scientific knowledge, practice science process skills, and apply science concepts through reading and observing, as well as by conducting investigations that have real-world applications.

Third grade science is organized into four disciplines: life science, physical science, earth science, and science and technology. All science outcomes are aligned to the National Science Education (NSE) Standards.

Lexis Prep utilizes Delta Education which provides a kit-based curriculum and instructional resources that correlate with state standards. Delta Education provides the expertise to ensure the best combination of materials are selected for each grade level in order to align the Lexis Prep curriculum with the science concepts, inquiry nature, and developmental appropriateness reflected in the state standards.

Lexis Prep Science Standards Correlated with NSE and Delta Education

Unit 1: Classroom Plants

As they cultivate seeds and care for their **Classroom Plants**, students investigate the functions of plant parts and plants' responses to environmental factors.

Unit 2: Using Your Senses

In **Using Your Senses**, students learn about the inner workings of the body's amazing communications network: the five senses. Students examine the structure of each sensory organ (eyes, ears, skin, nose, and tongue) to find out how it works.

They use lenses and prisms to create images and colors, explore depth perception, and measure their fields of vision. They experiment with tuning forks, cones, and membranes to model sound waves and eardrums, and construct a zither for manipulation of pitch and volume. Students distinguish textures by feel and test sensitivity to touch and temperature changes. Finally, they identify objects in odor boxes by smell and map the four taste areas of their tongues.

In the Delta Science Reader *Using Your Senses*, students read how our five senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste) take information from our surroundings and transmit it to the brain. The book also describes some of the ways a veterinarian uses her senses in her work. In addition, students explore the communication systems of Braille and American Sign Language.

Unit 3: Earth Movements

Students explore the massive **Earth Movements** that are constantly shaping Earth such as volcanoes erupting, trenches creeping open, and continental plates colliding and sending mountain ranges skyward. Students learn how rocks provide clues to Earth's history, structure, and geological activity. They build Earth cross-sections to compare ocean and continental crusts. Students investigate Earth processes that lend support to the theories of continental drift and plate tectonics. They model ocean-floor spreading, plate subduction, magma convection currents, volcanism, and earthquakes at plate boundaries. As a result, students learn to think of the Earth as a geological mosaic, constantly being refitted.



In the Delta Science Reader *Earth Movements*, students read about Earth's layers and landforms and the forces that shape Earth's surface. They learn how moving plates, earthquakes, volcanoes, weathering, and erosion change Earth. Students read about seismologists, scientists who study earthquakes, and about Charles Richter, the creator of the Richter scale for ranking the strength of earthquakes. Lastly, students learn about the rock cycle.

Unit 4: Food Chains and Webs

Through **Food Chains and Webs**, students learn that every bite we take connects us to a complex network known as a food web. Because most food webs begin with plants, students first explore plants as food producers. They experiment with soil and light to find the best growing conditions, and plant ryegrass in terrariums. They then introduce crickets, earthworms, and anoles and watch what happens. Students are soon able to classify each animal as a primary, secondary or tertiary consumer or decomposer based on what it eats. For reinforcement, students role-play various predators and prey in a food chain game. By the end of the unit, students can apply their knowledge of specific plant and animal relationships to the understanding of food webs in nature.

In the Delta Science Reader *Food Chains and Webs*, students read about what defines an ecosystem, how living things in an ecosystem get energy, and how ecosystems can change. Students explore the interaction of living things and discuss food chains and webs. The book also presents biographical sketches of key scientists, Charles Darwin and Rachel Carson, and describes the work of an ecologist. Students will discover the relationship between moose and wolf populations on Isle Royale and consider the varied ecosystems on a mountain.

Unit 5: Plant and Animal Life Cycles

In **Plant and Animal Life Cycles**, a research-based unit, students are fully responsible for the maintenance of two populations, pea plants and fruit flies, through their life cycles. Parallel activities with the plants and animals introduce students to the concept of progression through developmental stages. They trace the growth of peas from germination to flowering plants that produce new seeds. Simultaneously, they observe fruit fly larvae become pupae and see emerging adults lay the eggs of a new generation. They use their own charted data to compare the life cycles of plants and animals, and analyze one plant's biotic potential versus its reproductive activity.

In the Delta Science Reader *Plant and Animal Life Cycles*, students read about the life cycles of a variety of plants, animals, and fungi. They learn how some living things grow, change, and reproduce. They also read about a famous wildlife biologist, Jane Goodall, and her unique, long-term study of chimpanzees in Africa. Finally, students learn about emperor penguins and compare the sizes and weights of some newborn animals.

Social Studies

Lexis Prep students enjoy *Our Community and Beyond*, the TCI *Social Studies Alive!* curriculum for third grade. *Social Studies Alive!* consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to master key social studies concepts. The *Social Studies Alive!* approach is characterized by eight features: theory and research based active instruction, standards based content, preview assignments, multiple intelligences teaching, considerate text, graphically organized reading notes, processing assignment, and assessments to inform instruction.

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) has organized grade level content into Ten Thematic Units of Instruction that form the framework of the social studies standards. All ten themes are found at each grade level of *Social Studies Alive!* with specific themes enhanced at different grade levels. The focal themes in third grade are bolded below.

- **Culture**
- Time, continuity, and change
- People, places, and environments
- **Individual development and identity**
- **Individuals, groups and institutions**
- Power, authority, and governance
- **Production, distribution, and consumption**
- Science, technology and society
- **Global connections**
- **Civic ideals and practices**



The Lexis Prep social studies curriculum is content and benchmark aligned with the NCSS thematic units. Where objectives overlap with other grade levels, the objectives are met using different age-appropriate content and activities at each grade level.

Lexis Prep Social Studies Standards Correlated with NCSS and *Social Studies Alive!*

Unit: Our Community and Beyond

- Identify where their community is located in the world, using the geographic features of the globe
- Use map skills and a compass rose to identify key landmarks in the United States
- Explain how physical geography affects communities
- Describe the immigrant experience including why immigrants came and the challenges, benefits and drawbacks they faced
- Explore how diverse cultures make contributions to life in communities
- Explain the individual's role in making a community a better place to live
- Compare and contrast their lives with the lives of children in other countries
- Explain how supply and demand work together to affect the prices of goods and services
- Research global trade and its effects on people and communities around the world
- Describe public services in local communities and around the world
- Describe the main jobs and departments in a community government
- Explain four ways for people to have a voice in their community
- Explore how communities can help to solve environmental problems
- List things students can do to help the global community

National Standards for Visual Arts

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 visual arts include:



- Understand and apply media, techniques and processes
- Use knowledge of structure and functions
- Choose and evaluate a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Reflect upon and assess the characteristics and merits of their work and the work of others
- Make connections between visual arts and other disciplines

National Standards for Music Education

The National Standards for Arts Education were developed by the Consortium of National Arts Education Associations. They describe the learning outcomes recommended as an integral part of a comprehensive K-12 education for all American students. The content standards for K-4 music education include:

- Sing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Perform on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvise melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Compose and arrange music within specified guidelines
- Read and notate music
- Listen to, analyze and describe music
- Evaluate music and music performances
- Understand relationships between music, and the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
- Understand music in relation to history and culture



National Standards of Physical Education



The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) defines five major focus areas specifying what a physically educated person is capable of performing. These focus areas are:

- Learn skills necessary to perform a variety of physical activities
- Be physically fit
- Participate regularly in physical activity
- Know the implications of and the benefits from involvement in physical activities
- Value physical activity and its contribution to a healthful lifestyle

The Difference Maker: Lexis Accent

Customizing is the Key to Success for Each Child

The hallmark of a Lexis Prep education is our personalized approach called Lexis Accent. We know some students need an extra emphasis in their academic program and Lexis Accent is our tool to do that. This customization may include special one-on-one and small group sessions during the school day. These specialized sessions give the Lexis Prep staff the opportunity to focus on the particular learning needs of every child.



Writing - Students receive extra support in the writing process from draft to final copy, including areas such as voice, style, conventions, and research skills.

Reading - A focused time spent on phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, fluency, and comprehension.

Math - Students use manipulatives while receiving extra instruction in order to ensure mastery of all mathematics concepts.

Social Skills - Students learn practical strategies for developing appropriate friendships, understanding social nuances, and being comfortable in social situations.

As part of the enrollment process, your child will be evaluated to determine if he would benefit from personalized time in any of these areas. If so, it will be included as part of his education plan. There is no additional charge for these classes as we have found the Lexis Accent program is key to ensuring success in a college prep program.

Your child may also work with an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Physical Therapist, or Counselor at Lexis Prep. These are provided by a third party and there is an extra charge for these services.



Executive Function: Prepare for a Lifetime of Success

The ability to self-regulate is essential for success in life. At Lexis Prep, we call this executive function, a well-known concept that entails many different skills and abilities. Children with ADD or ADHD frequently struggle in this area so we put special emphasis on developing this skill in all our students.

According to Joyce Cooper-Kahn and Laurie Dietzel (*Late, Lost and Unprepared*), executive function can be defined as “a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one’s resources in order to achieve a goal. It is an umbrella term for the neurologically-based skills involving mental control and self-regulation.” Skills and abilities that make up executive function include self-monitoring, planning, organization, emotional control, initiation, shifting, and working memory.

All Lexis Prep students spend time each day learning and practicing these critical executive function skills. Executive function is built into our curriculum and is also explicitly taught with the goal of helping every student effectively develop and utilize these important life skills.



10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model

UHA!

At Lexis Prep, our mission is summarized by UHA!: To Understand, Honor and Accommodate diverse learners and do it with a passion! Everything we do flows from the UHA! principles. This includes the 10 Essential Elements of the Lexis Prep Success Model.

1. A Customized Curriculum

Each child has a unique learning style. A child learns best when teaching is personalized to fit the way he learns, rather than forcing him to learn the way the school teaches. At Lexis Prep, every teacher strives to understand how your child learns best and to utilize that style in every teachable moment. Our Lexis Accent Program customizes the educational program further by strengthening those specific areas that need more attention.

2. High Academic Expectations

A Lexis Prep education is never watered down. It is a solid, age-appropriate, college preparatory experience that will prepare your child well for further studies. Our academics are research-based and multisensory.

3. Integrated Executive Function Skills

Executive function is the ability to plan and organize oneself to accomplish a goal. Your child will learn executive function skills in every aspect of his education to best prepare him for future education opportunities as well as life beyond school. It is the first thing we think about when we interact with a child and it is the last thing we teach at the end of every day.

4. Painless and Intelligent Homework

It is imperative that your child learn how to effectively manage homework before entering high school and college so we focus on developing these critical skills. Homework at Lexis Prep is individualized, manageable, and relevant. It is never busy work and should not be a source of frustration.

5. Passionate and Highly Qualified Teachers

Our teachers are passionate, experienced, and dynamic. Most of our teachers have specialized training, a masters degree or both. They receive regular training in order to continually develop their teaching and assessment skills.

6. Collaboration with Medical and Educational Providers

At Lexis Prep, we are part of a team working together to ensure your child's success. This includes coordination with other professionals, including physicians who are managing medication, psychologists and counselors, speech and language specialists, occupational therapists, and outside tutors.

7. Constant Evaluation of Academic Progress

Our teachers constantly evaluate each student's academic progress. This is done through daily assessments, anecdotal observations, and more formalized testing such as the NWEA MAP assessment given three times each year.

8. Manage the Environment, Not the Child

At Lexis Prep, we believe success is largely dependent on managing the environment. We emphasize routines and transitions throughout the day. When a difficulty arises, we analyze the antecedents in order to determine where changes might be needed.

9. Partner with Parents

A strong partnership with parents is critical to the success of each student. This partnership begins with the initial interview and continues with daily communications, a monthly open forum for all parents, and parents visiting the classroom.

10. We Make It Fun!

Learning should be enjoyable. Children who pursue education (rather than endure it) will be far more successful in the future. At Lexis Prep, we provide a great college prep education and enjoy ourselves every day in the process.