



Course Syllabus

Course Title: English Language Arts, Grade 3

School Year: 2024-2025

Semester(s): 1 and 2

Grade Level(s): 3

Course Day(s) and Times: Mondays, Wednesdays 10 am - 11 am PST

Teacher Information:

- **Name:** Michelle Vasquez-Francis
- **Email:** michelle.francis@brancheslearning.org
- **Office Hours:** By appointment only
- **Branches Learning Main Office Number:** (323) 955-0114

Google Classroom Links:

Class Materials: <https://brancheslearning.org/product/language-arts-grade-3/>

Course Description: In this project-based language arts class, 3rd-grade students develop essential language arts skills while embracing creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

In this course, students will:

- Sharpen comprehension skills by reading various texts such as fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. This includes analyzing characters, settings, plot structures, and themes through guided discussions and activities.
- Enrich their vocabulary by discovering new words in context and applying them in written and oral expression.
- Write their thoughts coherently and revise and edit their work.
- Engage in project-based learning that integrates language arts skills with other disciplines.

Course Units*:

Semester 1

<p>Weeks 1, 2, 3</p>	<p>Informational Writing Unit Reading: Informational Unit - RI.3.1 Ask & Answer Questions - RI.3.2 Finding the Main Idea - RI.3.3 Making Connections Language Skills Unit - L.3.1.a Parts of Speech</p>
<p>Weeks 4, 5, 6</p>	<p>Informational Writing Unit Reading: Informational Unit - RI.3.4 Unknown Words and Context Clues - RI.3.5 Using NonFiction Text Features - RI.3.6 Differing Points of View Language Skills Unit - L.3.1.b Plural Nouns - L.3.1.c Abstract Nouns</p>
<p>Weeks 7, 8, 9</p>	<p>Opinion Writing Unit Reading: Foundational Skills Unit - RF.3.3.a Prefixes Language Skills Unit - L.3.1.d Irregular Verbs - L.3.1.e Verb Tenses - L.3.1.f Subject-Verb Agreement</p>
<p>Weeks 10, 11, 12</p>	<p>Opinion Writing Unit Reading: Foundation Skills Unit - RF.3.3.b Suffixes Language Skills Unit - L.3.1.g Superlatives - L.3.1.h Conjunctions Introduce Indigenous People Project - Background Information - Research - Put Projects Together</p>
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Fall Break</p>
<p>Weeks 14-18</p>	<p>Reading: Foundation Skills Unit - RF.3.4 Fluency Language Skills Unit - L.3.1.i Produce Sentences - L.3.2.a Capitalization - L.3.2.b Addresses Indigenous People Project - Finish Projects, Practice - Schedule/Present Final Projects (Presentation of Learning, after winter break)</p>

<p>Dates To Remember</p> <p><i>*No Class</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/26 First Day of Class • 9/02 Labor Day* • 10/14 Indigenous Peoples Day* • 11/11 Veterans Day* • 11/22-11/29 Fall Break* • 12/20-1/3 Winter Break* • 1/15 Last Day of Live Classes for Sem 1 • 1/17 Last Day To Submit Work • 1/24 Grades Released By This Date
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Semester 2

<p>Weeks 1, 2, 3</p>	<p>Narrative Writing Unit Reading: Literature Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RL.3.1 Ask & Answer Questions - RL.3.2 Recounting Fiction Stories - RL.3.3 Describing Characters <p>Language Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L.3.2.c Dialogue - L.3.2.e Spelling Patterns
<p>Weeks 4, 5, 6</p>	<p>Narrative Writing Unit Reading: Literature Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RL.3.4 Figurative Language - RL.3.5 Structure of a Story - RL.3.9 Compare & Contrast Fiction Texts <p>Language Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L.3.2.f Spelling Patterns - L.3.2.g/L.3.4.d Reference Materials
<p>Weeks 7, 8, 9, 10</p>	<p>Research Writing Unit Reading: Foundational Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RF. 3.3.c Multisyllabic Words <p>Language Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L.3.3.a Word Choice - L.3.3.b Spoken Vs. Written - L.3.4.a Context Clues - L.3.4.b/L.3.4.c Affixes & Roots
<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Spring Break</p>
<p>Weeks 12, 13, 14</p>	<p>Research Writing Unit Reading: Foundational Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RF.3.3.d Irregularly Spelled Words <p>Language Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L.3.5.a Nonliteral Language - L.3.5.b Real-Life Connections - L.3.5.c Shades of Meaning

<p>Weeks 15, 16, 17</p>	<p>Reading: Foundational Skills - RF.3.4 Fluency Speaking & Listening - SL.3.1 Collaborative Conversations - SL.3.2 Determining Main Idea/Details from a Read Aloud Habitat Project - Introduce Background Information - Research - Put Projects Together</p>
<p>Weeks 18, 19</p>	<p>Speaking & Listening - SL.3.3 Ask & Answer Questions About Information From a Speaker - SL.3.4 Report on a Topic/Text, Recount an Experience, Tell a Story Habitat Project - Finish Projects - Present Final Projects</p>
<p>Dates To Remember *No Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1/20 MLK Day* ● 1/22 First Day of Class ● 2/10 Lincoln's Birthday* ● 2/17 President's Day* ● 3/31-4/7 Spring Break* ● 5/26 Memorial Day* ● 5/28 Last Day of Live Class for Sem 2 ● 5/30 Last Day to Submit Work ● 6/06 Final Grades Posted By This Date

**Lessons within units subject to change or may take longer to review*

Course Expectations:

- Be on time
- Be prepared; mute your mic, camera on, and have your notebook and pencil nearby
- Find a quiet space that allows you to focus, eliminate background distractions
- Raise your hand, use the raise hand feature, or use the chat to participate
- The chat will be used only for discussions, activities, and concepts that are being covered in class
- Advocate for yourself and classmates, ask for help when needed
- Be accountable for your learning, submit your work on time
- Respect your classmate's opinions and treat each other the way you would like to be treated
- Use kind words

Grading Scale:

- EE – Exceeding grade level expectations
- ME – Meeting Grade Level Expectations
- AE – Approaching Grade-Level Expectations
- LE – Lack of Evidence Needed to Assess Grade-Level Expectations
- WTG – Working Toward Personal Goals Outlined in a Student’s IEP

**Final grades are determined by the quality and completion of assignments, attendance, and participation.*

Important Branches Learning Policy Information:

Camera Policy -

Branches Learning requires students to keep their cameras on during live classes unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Exceptions can be made in rare circumstances if the course teacher, supervising teacher (HST), and the parent all approve a camera waiver.

Attendance Policy -

Attendance and participation are part of the final grade. Students who miss more than 40% of live classes may fail the course. Exceptions may be made if a pre-approved plan is in place.

Headset Policy -

Students attending live classes from a shared space must have a headset with a microphone to ensure the class is not disrupted by background noise.

Late Work -

Assignments turned in after the due date will result in a lower grade unless pre-approved by the instructor.