
BACK TO SCHOOL

GRADES 3-4

PARENTING
CLASSES

Communicating with Teachers and Administration

- Remember that you represent Jesus.
- If you're emotional, wait before writing or speaking.
- Be respectful and listen — teachers are people, too.
- Start with something positive before bringing your concerns.
- Ask clarifying questions about resources used in class.
- Collaborate with the teacher — you're a team.
- Summarize and clarify next steps.
- Focus on a solution.

Participating in Local Education

- School Board meetings
- Follow Riverside Unified School District Facebook page.

Third and Fourth Grade Development

How does your child learn?

- Becomes more curious about “why things are the way that they are”
- Is able to plan ahead of time
- Thrives where there is organization
- Displays more abstract thinking; can draw conclusions
- Begins to think more independently

Emotional Development

- Greater awareness
 - More aware of real-world concerns
 - More aware of another person’s perspective and feelings
- The child gains...
 - The ability to mask true emotions in some contexts.
 - A sense of justice and empathy.
- Might experience a range of moods that change frequently

Relational Development

- Enjoys to build relationships outside the family of origin
- Has a strong desire to be a part of a group
- Can work cooperatively with others towards shared goals
- While expanding relationships, the child will still find refuge in their family of origin.
- The child will begin to spend time with friends of the opposite sex.
- Habits and patterns of behavior may be built upon or discarded for social motivations.

Identity Development

- Begins to develop a clear self-identity, so will likely desire more privacy
- Interests can change day to day.
- Want to be part of organized groups
- The child becomes more aware of where they fall more in the social order at school.
- Children at this age are still greatly influenced by family of origin.

Positive Parenting Tips

- Keep a steady routine with physical activities for your child.
- Ensure your child has at least 1 hour a day of physical activities.
- Encourage your child to choose their own books and spend time reading each day independently and with a parent.
- Encourage your child to get involved in organized groups.
- Engage in conversations with your child about their curiosities; listen and ask questions.
- Allow your child to have privacy and promote responsibility for their own personal hygiene.
- Talk with your child about puberty.
- Focus physical-body conversations on health rather than appearance.
- Promote healthy activities for your child that allow them to feel good about themselves.
- Encourage your child to use their problem-solving skills when confronted with a problem by working with them to brainstorm potential solutions.
- Allow your child to practice independence, and be available for support.

Siegel, Daniel J., & Tina Payne Bryson. *The Whole-Brain Child*. Constable & Robinson, 2012.

Tripp, Paul David. *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles that Can Radically Change Your Family*. Crossway, 2016.

Winner, Michelle Garcia, and Pamela Crooke. *You Are a Social Detective!: Explaining Social Thinking to Kids*. Think Social Publishing, 2020.

Curriculum

Getting to Know Your Child's Teacher

- Build a relationship with them at the beginning of the year.
- Show appreciation for them.
- Teachers have latitude to choose materials to teach state standards. Talk to your child's teacher, and talk to your child!

Learning in 3rd Grade

- Reading to learn vs. learning to read
- Much of their learning will come from texts.
- Read with your kids and ASK them questions (comprehension).
- Third grade begins state testing.
- Often a drop in grades first report card: don't panic! It will be okay. :)

Reading

- Shift from small words to big words (morphology and multisyllable)
- The biggest focus is comprehension. Are they understanding what they are reading?
- Can they pick out genres, characters, motivations, theme, plot, etc.?
- For Informational: What is it trying to teach you/inform you about? What are the topic/details?
- Exposure to text from different cultures

Writing

- 3 main types: Narrative, Opinion, and Informative
- Technology is king. They take state tests online, so they will most likely do much of their writing on a district-issued computer.

Math

3rd Grade

- Multiplication is KEY.
- It's the building block of all other higher-level math. They have to know those facts to automaticity (not always memorization). Find a fun way to do it!
- Relationship between multiplication and division

4th Grade

- Multi-step word problems
- Place Value is important
- 4 digit addition/subtraction
- Long division

Science and Social Studies

Materials are from the 1990s... In RUSD, teachers are encouraged to use the online material from Mystery Science.

3rd Grade

- Science: Life cycles, heredity & inheritance of traits, fossils & adaptation, weathering and erosion, waves and wavelengths
- Social Studies: Geographical features in their region of CA, American Indians, citizenship, laws, US landmarks/symbols, American heroes, immigrants and their impact

4th Grade

- Science: Plant & animal survival systems, rock formation & fossils, geographical maps, energy/fuel from earth's natural resources, forces and motion, ecosystems, earth systems
- Social Studies: Geographical mapping of CA, CA Indians, Missions, Mexican-American War, Gold Rush, immigration, relationship between state and federal government

Family Life

- You can preview on the Google Site linked on the RUSD district website.
- Taught towards the very end of the year (after testing)
- 4th grade focuses on hygiene and body image. Elaboration is necessary.
- As 3rd grade teacher – optional about healthy eating, exercise, and good hygiene (brushing your teeth, showering)

Extra-curricular Material May Include...

- Red Ribbon Week: Almost always in October.
- Anti-Bullying
- Other assemblies

All California State Standards:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>
Math Framework (Common Core Standards)

3rd:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/documents/mathgrade3fwlmg2.pdf>

4th:
<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/documents/mathgrade4fwlmg2.pdf>

Teacherspayteachers.com Teaching Resources & Lesson Plans | Teachers Pay Teachers

RUSD Family life 4-6 grade: Family Life Parent Site (google.com)

Biblical Response

Biblical Parenting – Grades 3-4

More independent – Give them opportunities to be independent in their faith. Reading their Bible on their own and talk to them about it.

Modeling faith – We primarily teach our kids through modeling - Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Share your story – Your kids may want to hear how you came to know Jesus and how he changed your life (with age appropriate details).

The Bible

1. The Bible is God’s Word to us. It is true and teaches us how to love and follow God - 2 Timothy 3:16

2. Encouraging them to begin to read God’s word on their own — talk about it together.

3. Memorizing Scripture together.

Prayer

1. Teaching your kids to pray with you or on their own

2. Praying for others

3. Praying when they feel overwhelmed

God

1. Triune God — Father, Son, and Spirit - 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. Jesus is God’s Son — eternal (not created) - John 1:1-3

3. The Holy Spirit lives in us if we are followers of Jesus - John 14:16-17

4. Talking about the attributes of God. He is holy, just, merciful, and loving.

5. When we look at Jesus, we see what God is like.

The Gospel – It’s all about Jesus!

1. God created everything. He loves us and desires relationship with us - Genesis 1, John 3:16

2. Sin entered the world and created separation between people and God - Romans 3:23

3. Jesus died in our place to bring us back to God - Colossians 1:21-22

4. If we confess and believe Jesus, we will be saved - Romans 10:9

Creation and Gender

1. God created everything for His glory - Genesis 1:31

2. All people are created in the image of God - Genesis 1:27

3. God created us male and female - Genesis 1:27

4. Marriage is God’s idea. It is between one man and one woman - Genesis 2:22-24

5. If you haven’t started already, now is a good time to start initial conversations on sex and our bodies.

Technology

1. Know what your kids are watching.

2. Be mindful of what your kids are exposed to.

3. Set limits and boundaries (for yourself and your kids).

All people matter to God.

1. All people are created in His image. They are His special creation - Genesis 1:27

2. God loves every single person and desires them to have a relationship with Him - John 3:16

3. We should also love every single person and desire them to know Jesus - Matthew 22:39

At this age, kids are beginning to notice differences and can begin to compare themselves to others. Feeling inferior or even bullying or attacking others for their differences.

- Help your kids see differences among people as beautiful.
- Remind kids that every person is created in God’s image and they are precious to Him.
- We can encourage our kids to be bold and stand up for those who are marginalized or mistreated... the way that Jesus did!

Friends

1. Be a kind and compassionate friend - Proverbs 17:17

2. Your friends will influence your direction in life - 1 Corinthians 15:33

3. Your children will be attracted to like-minded children. Teach your children to know and love Jesus, and they will be more likely attracted to others with similar voices

Action Steps

1. Capitalize on the time when your child is relaxed and open to conversation.

2. Be intentional about building a relationship with your child’s teacher.

3. Make sure your child had their own Bible.

Resources

Crouch, Andy, and Amy Crouch. *The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place.*

Keller, Kathy. *The New City Catechism: 52 Questions and Answers for Our Hearts and Minds* (The Gospel Coalition).

Giglio, Louie. *How Great Is Our God: 100 Indescribable Devotions About God and Science* (Indescribable Kids).

Gilkerson, Luke, and Trisha Gilkerson. *Changes: 7 Biblical Lessons to Make Sense of Puberty.*

The Institute for Creation Research (icr.org) – creation website

Message from Daniel Bishop on Gender and Culture – <https://thegrove.cc/counterculture-gender>

NIRV, *Adventure Bible for Early Readers.* Zondervan – NIRV Bible for kids

The NIV Action Study Bible (Action Bible Series).

Stortz, Diane M. *I Am Devotional: 100 Devotions About the Names of God.*

Tripp, Paul David. *Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family.*

Understanding “Transgenderism” – Focus on the Family – lots of links and practical conversations. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/get-help/understanding-transgenderism/>

2017-httycah-online.pdf (focusonthefamily.com) – Article on talking to kids about homosexuality