

Third Grade	January 2024



Twin Ridge Elementary

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Happy New Year!

Upcoming Events

- January 15- Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance (Schools and offices closed)
- January 16 & 17 - No School for Students - Teacher work and professional development days
- January 18th - Term 3 begins
- January 30th - Report Cards issued

CURRICULUM UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: This month we will begin Module 5 (Teamwork) in both reading & writing. Learn more about how you can support your child's learning at home [here](#). Students will read texts that help them answer the essential question: *What can sports teach us about working together?* Through a combination of fiction, realistic fiction, and nonfiction texts we will focus on the author's purpose, theme, literary elements, and point of view. Foundational skills will include decoding vowel combinations as well as homophones and contractions.

In writing, students will complete their narrative stories about friends who helped each other. Our next project will involve writing a persuasive letter. They will consider their audience and be able to use purposeful structure to organize their writing and explain their ideas with details, examples, and descriptions.

In addition to our writing tasks, students will be working to understand grammar skills to improve their writing. In Module 5 students will work to create and use regular and irregular plural nouns. Students will also work to explain the functions of each part of speech in sentences. Students will also practice using commas and punctuation marks in their writing.

MATH

We will continue Unit 3 in January. Over the course of Unit 3, Students will learn that:

- area is a unit of measurement
- area is the amount of space taken up by a two dimensional object
- multiplication can be used to find the area of rectangular shapes
- multiplication and addition can be used to find the area of non-rectangular shapes
- rounding and estimation skills can be used to check for reasonableness of our answers
- data can be represented visually through the use of different scaled graphs

In addition, we will continue to focus on problem solving. All year, students have been working on reading word problems carefully. They then identify what the problem is about, determine what question they are being asked to answer, and look back into the problem to find mathematical information to help them find the answer. In January, we will begin incorporating two step word problems using all four operations.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

Our Forces & Interactions science unit will be complete by the end of Term 2 (January 12th). Students will end the unit experimenting with gravity, learning about how magnets work, and exploring static electricity.

For the rest of the year we will be learning our new Social Studies curriculum. The first unit is the Geography and Economy of Maryland. Students will identify the location of geographic regions in Maryland (Appalachian, Piedmont Plateau, and the Atlantic Coastal Plain). Students will locate physical features and human-made features in Maryland using maps and other geographic tools. Students will also read to analyze how economic development in Maryland impacts people and the natural environment.

PATHs UPDATES

The PATHS program teaches and reinforces many key aspects of Social Emotional Learning, shown through research to improve behavior, reduce conflict and improve academics. We focus on problem solving skills, emotions and

feelings, and how to be a good friend. We will start the New Year by setting goals for ourselves as students, family members, and community members.