



THIRD GRADE

Classroom Overview

❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Third Graders begin each day in their classroom with their teacher leading them in pledges, prayers, and worship. Homeroom teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, technology, music, Spanish, Art of the Master, Composer Countdown, and library are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. All subjects are taught to meet or exceed the California State Standards. RSMCS is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

Spiritual & Social

❖ Bible:

- 30 minutes, 4 days per week
- Emphasis on studying God's plan for His Church through the life of Christ, through the Apostles, and, finally, through the life of believers as witnesses to the world. Study of scripture and Godly character traits equips students to grow and to become witnesses for Christ.
- Emphasis on encouraging Bible reading and memorization. Students memorize and recite Bible verses weekly. Children are taught that the Bible reveals God's plan for living wisely and righteously in the present day.
- Textbook: *Following Christ 3* (BJU Press)

❖ Chapel:

- Chapel each week with worship and message

❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and biblical conflict resolution.
- Focus on further developing students' group and independent study habits, organizational skills, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

Academic

❖ Mathematics:

- 50 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on mastering foundational facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers. Students participate in integrated technology lessons, activities, and projects to assist in mastering these concepts.
- Students study decimals, fractions, money, measurement, basic geometry, graphs, and problem-solving.
- Special Activities: ACSI Math Olympics
- Textbook: *My Math Grade 3* (McGraw - Hill)

Academic Continued

❖ Language Arts & Reading:

- 100 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on reading, comprehending, and responding through written and oral communication to works of literature, equipping students to analyze literature from a biblical worldview. Emphasis is placed on reading fluency, word analysis, and systematic vocabulary development. Students read novels such as *The Case of the Dognapped Cat*; *Sarah, Plain and Tall*; *Mr. Popper's Penguins*; and *Charlotte's Web*.
- Emphasis on writing clear, coherent, and focused sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea while demonstrating a command of English grammar, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and penmanship.
- Accelerated Reader Program 1st-5th grades
- Special Activities: ACSI Speech Meet and ACSI Spelling Bee
- Textbooks: *Adventures in Reading* (BJU Press), *English 3: Writing and Grammar* (BJU Press), *Zaner - Bloser Handwriting* (Highlights Co.)

❖ Science & Health:

- 40 minutes, 3 days per week
- Emphasis on animal classification, matter, force and motion, space, and ecosystems.
- Students conduct a variety of experiments and participate in activities, including individual and group projects, to promote hands-on learning in a stimulating scientific environment.
- Textbooks: *Science* (BJU Press)

❖ History & Geography:

- 40 minutes, 3 days per week
- Emphasis on exploring American history from a Christian perspective through the fascinating stories of many famous Americans, including Native Americans and their cultures. Throughout the history course, students participate in valuable map skills lessons to enable them to read, question, and interpret various types of maps.
- Special Activities: Field trip to the Environmental Nature Center, field trip to RSM City Hall.
- Textbook: *Our American Heritage* (A Beka)

Enrichment

❖ Physical Education:

- Two times per week students participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength-building exercises. Throughout the year students play a variety of games and activities to encourage coordination and movement, as well as good sportsmanship. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.

❖ Music:

- Emphasis on choral singing, breathing, vocal exercises and rhythm. A basic understanding of the fundamentals of music will be taught. The students will learn the value of worship as a part of their daily lives and will have opportunities to lead worship at different points throughout the school year.
- Special Activities: Perform at Grandparents Day, Christmas Chapel, and various other venues during the school year. There are two auditioned annual musical productions.

❖ Spanish:

- Emphasis on teaching students how to speak in Spanish, including how to say the alphabet and vowels, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, words related to the family, Bible verses and prayers, as well as basic commands and phrases. Students are taught songs in Spanish that reinforce their learning.

Enrichment Continued

❖ **Art:**

- A hands-on program that introduces students to the great artists and their work. Students engage in creative expression by painting their own masterpieces using the techniques of the masters.

❖ **Library:**

- Emphasis on developing basic library research skills and on teaching students how to use the library as a resource to find age-appropriate books that match their interests for pleasure reading.

❖ **Technology:**

- All RSM Christian School students in fourth through eighth grade receive hands-on computer learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on a Chromebook through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for third grade is on becoming familiar with using technology as a tool. Technology is integrated across third-grade curriculum, particularly in language arts for writing and in science for a planet project..
- Applications taught: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Adobe Spark, Google Chrome
- Other Applications used: IXL, Prodigy Math, MAP by NWEA, Freckle, Vocabulary A-Z, TypingClub, Google Classroom, Seesaw

29582 Aventura, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Phone: 949-589-4504; Fax: 949-589-7566

www.rsmchristianschool.com