

The following reflect student practice in skills and concepts learned in earlier years as well as new skills and concepts:

Language Arts

The language arts curriculum has been aligned with the California English Language Arts Framework. It is designed to develop skills to enable students to apply a variety of strategies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking. At all grade levels, students read and discuss high quality literature selections appropriate to their maturity and interests. Enrichment activities are an integral part of the program, with opportunities for extended reading, making connections to other disciplines, and incorporating critical thinking and problem-solving skills. At all levels, vocabulary development and spelling practice are based upon words taken from students' reading and writing and from lists of words frequently used in writing.

Listening and Speaking

- Follow a series of three or more oral directions
- Listen to various oral presentations as part of an audience
- Listen and interact in classroom discussions
- Listen critically for details, main ideas, sequence, and inferences
- Listen to the beginning of a story and supply an oral or written ending
- Deliver formal and informal oral presentations, including book reports, poetry, news articles, sharing reading aloud, and story reenactment
- Summarize a story or book, recalling the main idea and details
- Use complete, grammatically correct sentences when speaking
- Demonstrate critical and creative thinking when answering or asking questions
- Participate in dramatic activities and cooperative groups

Reading and Writing

- Read from a variety of genre appropriate to grade level
- Recognize elements of plot, setting and character
- Identify prefixes, suffixes and root words

- Demonstrate comprehension
 - use context clues to determine word meanings
 - compare and contrast ideas
 - draw conclusions
 - make predictions
 - identify main idea
 - state cause and effect
 - recall details
- Apply reference and study skills (table of contents, glossary, and dictionary)
- Recognize figurative language, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms
- Locate fiction and non-fiction books in the library
- Write an expository paragraph beginning with a main idea sentence, followed by three supporting details and ending with a concluding sentence
- Write poetry appropriate to grade level
- Write an informal letter and address an envelope
- Write a simple story with an identifiable beginning, middle, and end
- Introduce cursive writing with correct upper and lower case letter formation and adequate spacing between words
- Participate in the writing process--prewriting discussions, writing, revising, editing and post writing activities--in order to see a finished project read published, and displayed
- Apply writing process skills:
 - define, identify and show subject/predicate agreement
 - define and identify verbs, nouns, pronouns, and adjectives
 - use capitalization
 - beginning of sentence
 - proper nouns
 - abbreviations
 - use punctuation
 - end of sentence
 - commas
 - quotation marks

Mathematics

The priority of the mathematics curriculum is the development of students' thinking and understanding through direct personal and interactive experiences.

Concepts are taught through real-life situations and the use of a variety of tools, manipulatives, and materials. Enrichment activities are an integral part of the program. Students participate in instructional activities based upon the following mathematical strands:

Logic and Language

- Classify and sort objects by various attributes and make generalizations
- Use critical thinking and logical reasoning to solve problems
- Explain thinking in own words, written and oral

Measurement

- Estimate and measure length in inches and centimeters
- Tell time, use a calendar, and read a thermometer
- Measure length of sides of polygon and compute perimeter

Geometry

- Understand geometric terms such as line segments, circle, square, diameter, etc.
- Explore similarity, congruency, and symmetry

Functions

- Identify, verbalize, and extend a pattern
- Identify odd and even numbers

Statistics and Probability

- Explore and predict outcomes using probability activities
- Collect, organize, represent, and interpret data from surveys, graphs, tables, and experiments

Algebra

- Work with equivalent sets

Numbers

- Read, write and identify any number to 100,000
- Add and subtract three-digit numbers with regrouping, including problems using money
- Learn multiplication facts through twelve
- Multiply one- or two-digit number by one-digit number without regrouping
- Compare three- and four-digit numbers and simple fractions using $<$, $>$, and $=$ symbols
- Write a fraction to identify part of a shape
- Estimate answers to computational problems

- Analyze and solve word problems using any of the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division)
- Identify and write the value of coins/bills to \$10; make change for \$1.00
- Solve problems systematically and creatively through the use of various problem-solving strategies

History/Social Science

The MCCS curriculum is based on the California History/Social Science Framework which includes major goals and interrelated strands that are the same for all grade levels. The major goals are:

Knowledge and Cultural Understanding

Incorporate what is learned from historical, ethical, cultural, geographical, economic, and sociopolitical accounts.

Democratic Understanding and Civic Values

Incorporate an understanding of our national identity, constitutional heritage, civic values, and rights and responsibilities.

Skills Attainment and Social Participation

Incorporate basic study skills, critical thinking skills, and participation skills that are essential for effective citizenship.

Students in Third Grade participate in units of study based upon the theme of "Continuity and Change":

Our Local History: Discovering Our Past and Our Traditions

- Topography and natural landscape of Santa Cruz County
- Study of local Indians
- Settlement of the region by new groups
- Function of a community and its change over time
- Relationship of history to physical geography
- Identify issues important to the community
- Public's role in influencing decisions
- Our nation's history through biographies, stories, folk tales, legends, and celebrations

Christian Education

Mid County Christian School offers Bible instruction. Biblical principles are fully integrated into all subjects and students learn and memorize Bible verses. The Bible is used to help students understand how to apply biblical truths to daily living.

CHANGE: God's World Is Going To Change

Relationships with God

- Identify the Ten Commandments
- Praise and worship God with their songs, prayers, gifts, and lives of service
- Praise God for the worth He gives them in Christ
- Confess their sins confident in God's forgiveness in Christ Jesus
- Express trust in God to care for their physical and spiritual needs
- Describe God's plan to send a Savior
- Describe and appreciate the work and blessings of the Holy Spirit
- Acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God yet true man and Savior of the world
- Profess that Jesus physically rose from the dead and now lives with the Father in heaven
- Enjoy God

Relationships with Others

- Thank God for Christian friends
- Demonstrate a desire to share the Gospel with others
- Know how the Bible defines the Church

Relationships with the World

- Express awe and wonder over God's creation

Science/Health

The ultimate goal of science education is that of science literacy for all students. Science literacy means that students will:

- Be familiar with the natural world and recognize both its diversity and its unity

- Understand key concepts and principles of science
- Be aware of some of the important ways in which science, mathematics, and technology depend upon one another
- Have a capacity for scientific ways of thinking
- Use scientific knowledge and ways of thinking for individual and social purposes

Students will be active participants in learning to incorporate the scientific processes of observing, communicating, comparing, ordering, and categorizing. They will make connections with other disciplines and develop the capacity to relate science to everyday life. Major concepts include:

Physical

- Matter has properties and can be changed

Life

- Communities and life cycles

Earth

- Solar System

Health

- Bones and muscles

Environmental

- Air and water quality

Physical

MCCS physical education activities are based on the California Physical Education Framework. The framework contains three major goals with interrelated curriculum strands for all grades.

Movement Skills and Movement Knowledge

Develop motor skills and an understanding of the fundamentals of movement through practice. Areas of study and practice may include:

- Locomotor skills - walking, running, hopping, jumping, skipping, sliding, galloping, leaping
- Non-locomotor skills - bending, rocking, swinging, twisting, stretching, pushing, pulling

- Refinement of manipulative skills - dribbling, volleying
- Fitness benefits from various types of exercise
- Cardiorespiratory exercise

Social Development and Social Interaction

Students develop appropriate social behaviors by working independently and with others during planned physical activity and at play. Activities may include:

- Play with partners through movement
- Sharing
- Movement experiences which rely on cooperation

Self-Image

Activities are designed to develop and maintain positive self-image and an understanding of sportsmanship and team skills.

The Arts - Visual, Performing and Vocal Music

MCCS encourages integrating instruction in the visual and performing arts as a means of enhancing and extending the curriculum for students at all grade levels. Instruction in the historical origins and cultural influences of the visual and performing arts is promoted to develop knowledge, appreciation, and performance skill for students.

Assessment of Learning

Teachers assess academic progress regularly to support student learning, a process which includes daily checking for understanding, formal and informal testing, and observation.

Mid County Christian School
A ministry of Twin Lakes Church

**Highlights
of the
Core Curriculum**

Grade 3

MISSION STATEMENT

Encouraging, equipping, and empowering the whole child to positively impact God's world by providing, in partnership with the home, a balanced education in a loving, Christ-centered environment.