



### *Mission Statement*

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools, in cooperation with parents and the community, will educate and prepare all of our students to be knowledgeable, responsible, contributing members of a global society.

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**Wayne-Westland**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



# *Parent Guide* **Third Grade** **Learning** **Standards** *2009 – 2010*

## *Social Studies*

*The Wayne-Westland Elementary Social Studies Curriculum provides students with the skills they need to be able to participate effectively as citizens of the U.S. and of a global community.*

Third grade students explore the social studies disciplines of history, geography, civics/ government, and economics through the context of Michigan studies. Building on prior social studies knowledge and applying new concepts of each social studies discipline to the increasingly complex social environment of their state, the third grade content expectations prepare students for more sophisticated studies of their country and the world in later grades.

- **History:** Students sequence early periods of Michigan history from exploration through attaining statehood.
- **Geography:** Students learn the concept of regions as they explore different ways Michigan can be divided into regions and learn about the different geographic regions to which Michigan belongs.
- **Civic and Government:** Students prepare for their role as responsible and informed citizens of Michigan by focusing on key concepts, such as citizens' rights and responsibilities, separation of powers, individual rights, rules of law, representative government, and justice. Also, students are prepared for the roles of citizens in our democratic republic.
- **Economics:** Students learn to appreciate the relationships among scarcity, choice, and opportunity costs in making economic decisions by building on an understanding of the principles and concepts of economics.



## *Science*

It is increasingly important for students to have an understanding of science. That is why the emphasis on experiments and hands-on activities continue to be important in third grade. Units will include:

- Process Skills
- Force and Motion
- Structures of Life
- Light/Space and Planetarium



*Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) have been established by the Michigan Department of Education for English Language Arts and Math. These are described in the parent guides available from MDE or your school office.*



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Futures Start Right Here!

## *Special Area Classes*

*Wayne-Westland Community Schools provide instruction in five elective content areas for all elementary students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The five classes are music, visual arts, physical education, media information, and life skills. Each class meets for 50 minutes, (kindergarten for 20 minutes), once a week. The curriculums for each class is based on the state and national standards and benchmarks. Lessons are planned to support the core content areas.*

A brief summary of each class is as follows:

- **Music:** experiences include singing, listening, creating rhythms, and learning about musicians. Fifth graders explore sound production on electronic equipment.
- **Visual Arts:** experiences include drawing, painting, designing, and sculpting, as well as working in clay, paper, and fibers, to develop visual, spatial, and manipulative skills.
- **Physical Education:** students are taught basic skills in a variety of sports activities, with much attention to physical fitness.
- **Media Information:** experiences include reading, viewing, listening, and using technology for understanding, enjoyment and to access information.
- **Life Skills:** experiences include units in character education, nutrition/health, career awareness, and problem solving.

