3rd Grade-Benchmarks

WRITING

1) Expresses ideas clearly in writing.

Trimester	1	2	3	4
ALL	 Student's writing does not have an organizational pattern or format. Student has difficulty writing complete sentences. Few ideas are relevant to the topic or in logical order, as taught in the units of study. 	 Student's writing incorates some elements of organizational structure. Students has mostly complete sentences. Ideas are mostly relevant to the topic and in a logical order, as taught in the units of study. 	 Student's writing has a clear organizational pattern and/or structure related to the topic. Student's writing has complete sentences. Student's writing includes transitional words. Student's writing has sentences and ideas organized to support the purpose, as taught in the units of study. 	developed organizational

3rd Grade Benchmarks

2) Elaborates using details and descriptions.

Trimester	1	2	3	4
ALL	 Student uses simple, below grade-level vocabulary when writing. Student repeats words. Student's writing reveals little of the writer's feelings and voice, as taught in the units of study for each. 	 Student uses some grade-level vocabulary. Student's writing reveals some of the writer's feelings and voice. Student uses some words that give details and are appropriate to the topic and genre, as taught in the units of study. 	 Student uses grade-level vocabulary that gives details and descriptions and that is appropriate to the topic and genre. Student uses words that are specific, interesting, and vivid. Student's writing is expressive and reveals the writer's feelings, personality, and interests, as taught in the units of study. 	 Student uses interesting and sophisticated, above grade-level vocabulary. Student chooses words and phrases that are specific, interesting, and vivid. Student uses figurative language. The feelings, personality, and interests of the writer are revealed and contribute to the uniqueness of the writing, as taught in the units of study.

3) Uses Writer's Notebook, mini-lessons, and conferences as tools to develop writing ability.

Т	rimester	1	2	3	4
		Notebook, mini-lessons, or conferences as tools to develop writing skills, as taught in the unit of	Notebook, mini-lessons, and conferences as tools to develop writing skills, as taught in the unit of study	Notebook, mini-lessons, and conferences as tools to develop writing skills, as taught in the unit of	Student rarely uses Writer's Notebook, mini-lessons, and conferences as tools to develop writing skills, as taught in the unit of study.

3rd Grade-Benchmarks

4) Demonstrates stamina during independent writing time.

Trimester	1	2	3	4
1st	Student is unable or rarely able to write independently for 15 minutes.	Student is approaching independent writing stamina of 15-20 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for 20-25 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for more than 25 minutes.
2nd	Student is unable or rarely able to write independently for 15-20 minutes.	Student is approaching independent writing stamina of 20-25 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for 25-30 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for more than 30 minutes.
3rd	Student is unable or rarely able to write independently for 30 minutes.	Student is approaching independent writing stamina for 45 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for 45 minutes.	Student consistently writes independently for more than 45 minutes.

5) Applies rules of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

Trimeste	r 1	2	3	4
ALL	 Student rarely demonstrates the ability to: Use end punctuation in writing Write complete sentences Capitalize at the beginning of sentences Use parts of speech and grammar as taught in the units of study 	2	 Student consistently demonstrates the ability to: Use end punctuation in writing Write complete sentences Capitalize at the beginning of sentences Use parts of speech and grammar as taught in the units of study 	Student consistently applies above grade-level grammar, usage, and mechanics skills. Student consistently edits independently.

3rd Grade Benchmarks

6) Learn and apply spelling patterns.

Trimeste	r 1	2	3	4
ALL	Student rarely applies above grade level spelling rules, patterns, and generalizations.	Student sometimes applies above grade level spelling rules, patterns, and generalizations.	Student applies above grade level spelling rules, patterns, and generalizations.	Student consistently applies above grade level spelling rules, patterns, and generalizations.