

Our Fourth Grade Curriculum

Fourth Grade is a year filled with excitement as students mature and grow as learners. They begin to put specific skills into practice throughout the range of subject areas. Our goal is for children to become responsible students. We help them gain organizational skills they will carry with them into fifth grade and beyond. We emphasize that students treat each other with respect and kindness, even when they have different opinions.

Reading

Fourth graders are moving beyond “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” They use books for enjoyment and to gain new information.

Reading Goals:

- Read grade level material accurately, fluently, and with the ability to self-correct while reading
- Relate new information to prior knowledge and experiences
- Compare and contrast literary elements (character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, and author’s purpose)
- Demonstrate an understanding of different literary styles
- Understand and use key vocabulary words
- Restate and summarize information

Book Buddies: Your child will be paired with a Book Buddy. Fourth graders have younger buddies for the first time. They meet regularly for fun activities and to read together. Fourth graders love being friends and role models to younger children in the school.

Student Treasures: Your child writes and publishes a book, and receives a hard-bound copy as a keepsake.

Language Arts Goals:

- Spell frequently-used words correctly
- Use punctuation accurately
- Use capital letters correctly
- Use parts of speech correctly
- Use complete sentences correctly
- Write a clear paragraph with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence
- Write a variety of pieces that demonstrate command of writing elements including focus, organization, content and style
- Write in cursive

Class Assembly: Fourth graders perform a play based on literature or poetry they have read. This is a favorite activity. Students feel great about memorizing their lines and performing for the whole school.

Math

- Know addition and subtraction facts
- Add and subtract multi-digit numbers
- Read and write numbers to hundred-millions
- Give the value of the digits in numerals to hundred-million
- Find equivalent names for numbers
- Solve addition and subtraction number stories
- Know multiplication facts and solve multi-digit multiplication problems
- Understand relationship between multiplication and division

(Math cont’d)

- Name, draw, and label line segments, lines, and rays, angles, triangles, and quadrangles
- Identify and describe right angles, parallel lines, and line segments
- Use the statistical landmarks maximum and minimum
- Display data with a line plot, bar graph, or tally chart

Math Olympics: Fourth graders represent a country, join in the colorful Parade of Nations, then visit various “countries” to participate in math games.

American History Goals:

- the first people of the Americas
- the Age of Exploration
- major events preceding and during the Revolutionary War
- westward migration
- yearly cultural theme study
- community service

Explorer Wax Museum: Your fourth grader researches an explorer from the Age of Exploration. Dressed in period costume, each explorer then stands frozen in a wax museum, “coming to life” when a button is pushed, to explain his or her historical exploits. This is a signature fourth grade event.

Science: *Curriculum alternates with third grade*

Science Goals (Even Year):

- Investigate matter through studies of sublimation (dry ice) and polymers (slime!)
- Delve into the world of electricity exploring how circuits work, electricity safety, and the difference between conductors and insulators

Science Goals (Odd Year):

- Discover what weather is and where it happens through lessons about our atmosphere
- Find out about Mars exploration; the challenges and successes of different spacecraft

Mars Pathfinder Model: Students use what they learn about Mars exploration to build a model of the Mars Pathfinder, which carried the Sojourner Rover (one of the successes).

Science (Every Year):

EarthWorks: Work as part of a team to conduct experiments, research animals and habitats, and explore different fields of science, in preparation for a trip to EarthWorks, located in a limestone mine under Kansas City

Egg Drop Challenge: Engineers challenge students throughout the area to create the lightest structure that protects an egg in a 25-foot fall. Students work individually or as a team.

Technology Goals:

- Learn word processing (page layout, margins, spacing, justification)
- Become familiar with multiple search engines, encyclopedias, online databases, other electronic resources
- Learn to add graphics from the Internet and other electronic resources to multimedia presentations and word documents
- Learn to create PowerPoint presentations

Explorers Wanted: Each student creates a “wanted” poster for the explorer they are researching in the classroom.

Oz Map: Your student makes a computer map of Oz, using drawing software and the original Wizard of Oz text as a guide.

Evaluations:

Teachers are your partners in ensuring that your child is succeeding in fourth grade. They perform oral and written assessments, as well as informal evaluations to determine how each student is progressing.

Teachers are committed to making sure your child is offered help, encouragement and enrichment based on his or her individual learning needs.

The Well-Rounded Education

Our resource instructors bring out the best in your child as part of a comprehensive, well-wounded fourth grade experience.

Spanish: Students learn common actions and expressions, adjectives; household items; classroom objects; parts of the body; travel; foods; geography; current events; culture.

P.E.: Fourth graders practice combining skills into sequences, and learn to perform individual and team activities with an emphasis on sportsmanship, rules and strategic tactics. Strength and conditioning are closely monitored.

Music: Students learn folk music, seasonal songs and compose music; beat and rhythm; folk dances and other choreographed movements; rhythm and instruments as accompaniments; recorders; reading and writing music basics; musical forms

Art: Students learn line and shape; line shading, shadows, hatching, and crosshatching; drawing from observation; color and shading; texture

4th Grade Field Trips and Traditions

Hidden Pond Native American Experience: Students spend a day at Stone Nature Center learning how early American Indians survived on the prairie.

One Room School House: Students dress in period clothing and are immersed in a one-room schoolhouse setting at the Kansas History Museum.

UNICEF Bake Sale: Fourth graders organize and implement this school-wide community service project.

PowerPoint Presentations: Students create PowerPoint presentations about a topic they’ve researched.