

A Parent's Guide to the Fourth Grade Curriculum

Reading and Language Arts

Student Learning Progression

Reading

- Refer to examples in text, describe characters in depth, and be able to identify the theme
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text
- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry
- Explain events, determine main idea, explain how it is supported, and refer to details in text
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts
- Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively

Writing

- Write and understand narrative, informative, and opinion pieces
- With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research
- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
- Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented
- Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace
- Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is appropriate

Language

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings

Mathematics

Major Concepts

- Identify properties of polygons
- Construct geometric figures
- Demonstrate knowledge of lines, segments, rays, and angles
- Calculate area, perimeter, and volume
- Display data using a variety of graphs
- Apply addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division strategies to multi-digit numbers
- Solve open-ended problems
- Measure using metric units
- Compare and order decimals
- Compare and order fractions

Science

Earth: Rocks and Minerals

- What is a mineral?

Life: Systems and Cycles

- Life cycles of living things
- Ecosystems
- Body Systems: Digestive, Circulatory, Respiratory, Nervous
- How do living things get their energy?

Physical: Force and Motion

- Explain effect of acceleration, speed, friction, gravity, and inertia
- Static and Current Electricity
- Magnetism

Social Studies

Instructional Topics:

- Geography skills- Maps and Globes.
- Exploration of historical events, documents, and individuals that led to the development of the United States.
- Appreciate cultural diversity, and experience events through the examination of primary sources.
- In addition to the ratification and guiding principles of the Constitution and United States Government, students learn about the colonization and slavery in New Jersey.
- Through problem-based learning, students are introduced to basic economic principles, financial decision-making, and the impact of ideas, inventions and prominent figures throughout history.

Spanish

The purpose of this class is to expose, prepare and provide engaging learning opportunities for the students to start acquiring the Spanish language at the elementary school level. The teaching and learning process includes a variety of activities that help the learner feel comfortable while learning the new language. The classroom activities include oral participation through visuals, kinesthetic interpretation of the unit, written activities related to the material, cultural facts, games, and children's songs. These activities are then observed by the facilitator to evaluate the teaching and learning process. The process of assessing the students includes the oral weekly evaluation of the thematic unit and a written assessment after the completion of each specific unit.

Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Grades 4-5

The program strand is designed to challenge our gifted learners with relevant activities to meet their academic needs. Identified students in these grades are invited to participate in weekly pull-out classes. Students are engaged in critical and creative thinking activities that provide an emphasis on research through an in-depth study of differentiated learning strands. Learning activities focus student discovery on relationships, systems, and structures that exist all around them. Topics are broad in scope, embracing such diverse topics as ecosystems, cultures, and engineering. Problem-based assessments draw on students to apply research and predict future trends in technology, education, and economics. The program addresses the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards as well as the national Common Core Standards at an advanced level and focuses on creative problem solving, research, critical thinking skills, communication skills, and leadership skills within a highly engaging format.