

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FOURTH GRADE



LANGUAGE ARTS

This year your child will be working to develop his or her understanding and mastery of Grade 4 Common Core Standards in English-Language Arts. These standards integrate all aspects of Language Arts development and are categorized under Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language. Your child's teacher will use a wide variety of instructional strategies and formats to help your child learn these standards by the end of the school year.

READING

- Apply Phonics and Word Recognition Skills
- Accurately read unfamiliar multisyllabic words using phonics and word recognition strategies.
- Read with Fluency
- Read purposefully and accurately with appropriate rate and expression.
- Monitor reading for accuracy and comprehension, self-correcting as needed.
- Identify Key Ideas and Details
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Summarize the text.
- Determine the main idea or theme of a text and how it is supported by key details.
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event from a text drawing on specific details.
- Explain what happened and why when reading in the content areas.
- Understand the Structure of Texts
- Determine the meaning of grade appropriate words and phrases in texts.
- Understand the structure of poems, drama, and prose and can explain the differences.
- Describe the overall structure of an informational text (e.g., time order, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution).
- Compare and contrast varying points of view in stories including the differences between first and third person narration.
- Compare and contrast firsthand and secondhand accounts of the same event or topic.
- Integrate Knowledge and Ideas Within and Across Texts
- Make connection between the text and a visual or oral presentation of the text.
- Interpret and explain charts, graphs, timelines, and interactive elements on a web page.
- Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics in stories, myths and traditional literature from diverse cultures.
- Read and Comprehend a Range of Texts with Appropriate Grade Level Complexity

WRITING

- Write a Variety of Texts for Various Purposes

- Write fully-developed and coherent opinion, explanatory and narrative pieces appropriate to task, purpose, and audience using effective techniques.
- Produce and Publish Clear and Coherent Writing
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, editing, and revising with guidance and support.
- Produce and publish writing utilizing technology, including the Internet.
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- Recall and gather relevant information from experiences and print and digital sources.
- Take notes, categorize information and provide a list of sources.
- Draw evidence from literary and informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Demonstrate a Range of Writing
- Write routinely for specific tasks, purpose, and audiences over both short or extended time frames.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

- Participate in Collaborative Conversations with Understanding
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions, building on other's ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Come to discussions prepared and draw on that preparation to contribute to a discussion.
- Follow agreed upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
- Ask and answer questions to clarify and build upon remarks of others.
- Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or presented visually or orally.
- Identify the reasons and evidence the speaker provides to support particular points.
- Present Knowledge and Ideas Clearly
- Report on a topic or text in an organized manner using appropriate facts and relevant details.

LANGUAGE

- Demonstrate Command of Conventions of Standard English
- Use appropriate grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing or speaking such as pronouns, adverbs, adjectives, prepositional phrases and progressive verb tenses.
- Use Knowledge of Language
- Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
- Choose punctuation for effect.
- Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (presenting ideas or small group discussion).
- Understand and Use Grade Appropriate Vocabulary
- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words or phrases.
- Use common grade appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word.
- Consult digital and print reference materials to determine word pronunciation and meaning.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language.
- Explain similes and metaphors.

- Explain the meaning of idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their synonyms and antonyms.
- Acquire and accurately use grade appropriate academic and content-specific words and phrases.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Grade 4 this year, we have begun to integrate our social studies and Language Arts curriculum, aligned with the Common Core State Standards and the Connecticut Social Studies Curriculum Framework. Given this alignment of standards (e.g., understanding of primary and secondary sources), your child will engage in many literacy experiences related to social studies topics.

The content knowledge your child learns through these reading and research experiences will be assessed as a part of social studies. Language arts related standards will be assessed through language arts indicators (e.g. “Integrates knowledge and ideas within and across texts”)

- Develop and understand decision-making, problem-solving, listening, speaking, personal and group interaction skills.
- Explain the importance of rules/laws and one’s rights and responsibilities as a member of a school, community and state.
- Examine and cite evidence to understand and explain different points of view.
- Participate in informed, collaborative conversations about social studies topics and texts, expressing own ideas clearly and building on others’ ideas.

GEOGRAPHY

- Locate man made and physical characteristics of CT
- Describe how physical systems (weather and climate) have affected people’s lives in CT.

HISTORY

- Identify and analyze the impact of individuals, groups and events on Connecticut history.
- Access, gather, and interpret information from a variety of primary and secondary sources including electronic media.
- Create various forms of written and visual work to demonstrate an understanding of history and social issues.
- Present information gathered on a topic with clarity, voice, and fluency and respond to questions.

SCIENCE

Physical Science

- Energy Transfer and Transformations
- Recognize that electrical and magnetic energy can be transferred and transformed.
- Understand that electricity in circuits can be transformed into light, heat, sound and magnetic effects.

Life Science

- Matter and energy and energy in the earth’s systems.
- Describe how all organisms depend on the living and non-living features of the environment for survival.
- Infer that when the environment changes, some organisms survive and reproduce, and others die or move to new locations.
- Life Science: Major world biomes and exploration of food webs, ecological cycles, photosynthesis, aquatic habitats, populations, biodiversity and extinction, and predator-prey relationships.

Earth Science/Science and Technology in Society

- The Changing Earth
- Discover that Earth materials have different physical and chemical properties that may be identified through observation and testing.

- Recognize that the properties of Earth materials determine how they are used.
- Describe how water plays a major role in shaping the Earth’s surface as it circulates through the Earth’s crust, oceans and atmosphere.
- Earth Science: Meteorology — the factors that affect local weather

Scientific Inquiry

- Demonstrate a thoughtful and coordinated attempt to search out, describe, explain and predict natural phenomena.
- Participate in speaking, listening, presenting, interpreting, reading and writing about science.
- Understand that mathematics provides useful tools for the description, analysis and presentation of scientific data and ideas.

MATHEMATICS

Our mathematics curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CCSS-M) that define what students should understand and be able to do by the end of the year at each grade level. The Content Standards at each grade level are grouped into domains (e.g., Geometry) and clusters within each domain. Our instructional focus in Grade 4 is on three critical areas:

1. Developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication and developing understanding of division involving multi-digit dividends.
2. Developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers.
3. Understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties (e.g., parallel sides).

Mathematical Practices

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of structure.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Key Fluency

- Add/subtract within 1,000,000, using strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns.
- Number and Operations in Base Ten
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right.
- Read and write multi-digit whole numbers using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form. Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place, using $>$, $<$, $=$ symbols to record comparisons.
- Use place value to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- Multiply a whole number up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations. Illustrate and explain the calculation using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.
- Find whole number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors, using strategies based on place value and the properties of operations, and relationship between multiplication and division. Illustrate and

explain the calculation using equations, rectangular arrays, and/or area models.

Number and Operations - Fractions

- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$). Solve problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions by using information presented in line plots.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles.

Geometry

- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

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