

Fourth Grade Curriculum

English-language arts:

Reading: Fourth graders will read from a wide range of material (traditional and contemporary literature, variety of cultures and genres) and informational resources (books, newspapers, visual media) and learn to respond in a critical and thoughtful manner. They will learn to identify and define the presence of figurative language (simile, metaphor, hyperbole), and apply a variety of response strategies effectively (predictions, keywords), while decoding strategies and context clues to determine meaning of new vocabulary and pronunciation (synonyms, word origins, idioms). They will display fluency and intonation while reading orally and discuss reading contents in pairs, and small and large groups.

Writing: Students will progress through the stages of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing), writing narratives, responses to literature, information reports, and summaries. They will learn to write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea, with a command of standard English conventions including varied sentence structures, grammar, punctuation, capitalization and spelling. Students will quote or paraphrase information sources, citing them appropriately and use various reference materials as an aid to writing (dictionary, thesaurus, on-line information).

Listening and speaking: Students will learn to ask and respond to appropriate questions, listening responsively and respectfully to other's points of view. Presentations will be made within small and large class settings, using clear and audible language, expression, and other engagement techniques (eye contact, intonation, pacing).

Mathematics:

Students will learn about number and operation (place values, rounding, multiplication, division, decimals, and introduction to negative integers), geometry, function and algebra, statistics and probability, and problem solving and mathematical reasoning.

History-social science:

Fourth graders will learn about the geography, history, native people and industry of California. An understanding of local, state, and federal governments as described in the U.S. constitution will be developed.

Science:

Students will become ecologically literate and develop knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas through investigation and experimentation. In the field of Physical Science, they will study electricity and magnetism, in Life

Science they will study how all organisms need energy and matter to live and grow, in Earth Science they will learn about the properties of rock and minerals and elements that shaped the Earth's land surface.

[Dance](#), [music](#), [theater](#) and [visual](#) arts:

Performance of dance, music, drama and art, and instruction about these art forms. Students will be given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and participate in the Orchestra program, or Chorus program.