

FOURTH GRADE

Reading and Language Arts

The reading and language arts curriculum is tied to the social studies and science curriculum with many opportunities for incorporating writing and math into the readings and discussions. The students read novels, tall tales, legends, fables, poetry, photographic essays, non-fiction books, and articles. The writing program continues using certain aspects of the units of study developed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. The students become increasingly independent in working through all of the steps in the writing process including brainstorming and planning using a graphic organizer, drafting, revising, peer and teacher editing, and publishing a final draft. Over the course of the year, students create a memory book, write personal narratives, creative stories, letters, poems, expository paragraphs, and a non-fiction research report.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Employ reading comprehension strategies such as visualizing, inferring, and identifying the author's purpose
- Develop clearly written stories that include dialogue, sensory details, and a beginning, middle, and end
- Communicate thoughts and opinions in writing with evidence to support each idea
- Write with increasing mastery of grammar and spelling conventions

Math

The Fourth Grade uses the Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley mathematics curriculum. The program teaches students key math concepts through problem-



solving instruction, hands-on activities with manipulatives, and math problems that involve reading and writing. Student progress is assessed over the course of the year through ongoing classroom observation, quizzes, and unit tests.

Based on the students performance on the math assessment at the beginning of the year, students may be placed in the next grade level of math.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL LEARN SKILLS SUCH AS:

- Mastering multiplication and division facts through the twelves and applying this knowledge to more complex, multi-digit problems
- Solving word problems using a variety of problem solving strategies
- Making connections between mathematical concepts presented in class and real world applications

Science

The science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and both mathematics and technology are threaded through the curriculum. Students learn about topics through interdisciplinary projects and hands-on activities such as researching the history of wind turbines and then working in small groups to design and build their own wind turbines. Over the course of the year, the curriculum includes the following units of study in life science, physical science, and earth science: Plant and Animal Structures, Energy Works, and Changing Earth.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Use and apply the scientific method by making predictions, performing experiments, making accurate observations, collecting and recording data, analyzing results, and drawing conclusions
- Develop an understanding of cause and effect relationships

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum begins with the study of Long Island and the development of the island from the past to the present. The students deepen their understanding of the geography and history of the local area by participating in a variety of field trips such as visiting the Fire Island Lighthouse, the Stony Brook Schoolhouse, the Epenetus Smith Tavern, and the Joseph Lloyd Manor. As the year progresses, the curriculum then broadens as the students learn about New York State, the regions



of the United States, and Westward Expansion. Over the course of the year, students read *Scholastic Magazine* and engage in classroom discussions about current events.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Make and use maps, globes, graphs, charts, diagrams, tables, timelines, and illustrations
- Research topics, identify main ideas and supporting details, and take notes on important information
- Write a research paper detailing the life and contributions of a famous New Yorker

World Languages (Spanish/French)

World language study in the Fourth Grade offers the students Spanish and French. Each language course covers one-half year, and classes meet two days per week. The program builds upon the skills and concepts taught in Third Grade, with a greater emphasis on sentence structure and conversation. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are foundational aspects of the program, and the students are also given an introduction to the history, development, and structure of the language in general. Language learning is enhanced by the use of technology.