



Learning Across the Year

● Fourth Grade ●

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to...

Vision: All kids engaged in learning today...for life tomorrow.

Mission: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for 4th grade, go to: www.gfps.k12.mt.us



Reading

In fourth grade, students read skillfully with meaning and purpose by using appropriate comprehension and vocabulary strategies. Students read from a wide variety of literary genres and informational texts. They discuss, reflect, and respond, using evidence from their reading. Students are able to critically analyze text. Students read for pleasure and choose books based on personal preference, topic, theme, or author. Fourth grade units include Personal Narrative, Empires in the Middle Ages, Poetry, Inventors, Geology, Contemporary Fiction, The American Revolution, and Treasure Island.

Writing

Students will write for a range of purposes, including describing, telling a story, and explaining. Students are aware of topic, audience, purpose, and form, and are able to select and sometimes adapt their writing to meet specific requirements. Their understanding and use of vocabulary introduces imagery to their writing. Informational writing reflects understanding of specific purpose, often requiring gathering and synthesizing information from a number of resources to express and justify an opinion. Students are more aware of the conventions of writing as they reflect on their strengths and weaknesses and strive to improve.

Language

Students in fourth grade understand and correctly use capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar when reading, writing and speaking. Students utilize content vocabulary and descriptive language to enhance their writing.

Speaking and Listening

In fourth grade, students engage in collaborative conversations and readily contribute to discussions. They are prepared to speak to others and follow agreed upon rules for discussions. They report on information, clearly explain their own ideas, ask and answer questions, and use appropriate speech for the situation.

Handwriting

Fourth grade students use both print and cursive, and continue practicing basic keyboarding skills.

Math

Fourth graders add and subtract whole numbers quickly and accurately. They review basic multiplication facts and learn efficient procedures for multiplying two- and three-digit numbers. They utilize multiple strategies for solving problems involving multiplication and division. Students solidify and extend their understanding of fractions to include decimals. They are able to add, subtract and multiply fractions. Students work with common factors and multiples as preparation for learning procedures for fraction operations in grades five and six.

Science

Children learn to observe, communicate, measure, classify/compare and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Forces & Energy, Using Energy, Our Dynamic Earth, and Information Processing & Living Things.



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Social Studies

4th graders develop social skills and an awareness of their community and state through experiences centered around the topics: Montana, Climate, Vegetation and Resources, Geography, Early America and Regions/Continents.

Music

4th graders listen, respond to and present music. They interpret basic music symbols for notes, terms, and signs. They recognize vocal types in a musical piece.

Physical Education/Health Enhancement

Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

Technology

Students will use a variety of digital tools appropriately and ethically to create, collaborate, communicate and solve problems.

Art

4th graders are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

Counseling

Counseling lessons focus on personal and social development, academic development and career development. Fourth graders apply their own interests and strengths to set goals for academic success.

Library

Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment.

How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

- Make sure reading is part of your child's daily routine. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions for reading. Read together if possible or ask your child to tell you about the book he/she is reading. Ask questions such as: "Why do you think the author wrote this?" "What do you think?" "Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?" "What information can we get from reading this?"
- Make sure your child sees you reading. Keep reading materials available.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his/her opinion. Ask them to use facts and details to persuade you on his/her point. Ask, "Why?" And say, "Tell me more."
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story, read it together and discuss what it means.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Encourage them to elaborate to encourage the use of vocabulary. Don't settle for one word answers. Ask specific questions or use the phrase "Tell me more." Ask questions to encourage multiple exchanges.
- Look for real-life math problems. While cooking, ask them to compare fractional amounts by saying, "Which is more, $1/8$ or $1/4$ and how do you know?" If the situation arises, ask them to compare numbers using a phrase, such as, "How many times more is the weight of the dog than the cat?"
- Allow your child to multiply and divide any time they can when situations arise.