



## Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide

**PRIORITY STANDARDS:** District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported to progress toward mastery. Students who have mastered the priority standards will receive enrichment activities/tasks to grow further.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the Science of Reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read. Key principles of the science of reading include:

**Fluency:** Fluent reading involves reading with accuracy, speed, and expression. Fluency is developed through practice and the application of phonics skills.

**Vocabulary Development:** Building a strong vocabulary is essential for comprehension. The science of reading emphasizes explicit vocabulary instruction and exposure to a rich and diverse range of words.

**Reading Comprehension Strategies:** Effective readers use various strategies to understand and interpret text. These strategies include making predictions, summarizing, asking questions, and connecting prior knowledge and new information.

**Text Structure and Syntax:** Understanding the structure of sentences and the organization of texts enhances reading comprehension. Instruction in syntax and text structure helps students navigate and comprehend written material.

**Morphology:** Morphology involves the study of meaningful units of language, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Understanding morphological elements contributes to vocabulary development and decoding skills.

**Comprehension Monitoring and Metacognition:** Skilled readers actively monitor their understanding of text and use metacognitive strategies to fix comprehension problems. The science of reading encourages the development of these metacognitive skills.



The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

## MATH

In fourth grade, the goals of mathematics education are designed to build upon the foundational knowledge acquired in earlier grades and introduce more advanced concepts and skills. The overall goal is to provide a well-rounded and developmentally appropriate mathematics curriculum that prepares students for more complex mathematical concepts in subsequent grades. Fourth-grade mathematics education aims to foster a positive attitude toward learning math, build a strong foundation for mathematical thinking, and develop essential problem-solving and analytical skills. The goals for fourth-grade mathematics typically include:

- **Number and Operations:** Develop a deeper understanding of place value up to the millions. Build fluency in addition and subtraction with multi-digit numbers. Extend multiplication and division concepts to include larger numbers.
- **Fractions and Decimals:** Develop a solid understanding of fractions, including equivalent and comparing fractions. Introduce decimal concepts and understand the relationship between fractions and decimals.
- **Multiplication and Division Fluency:** Master multiplication and division facts. Apply multiplication and division strategies to solve real-world problems.
- **Measurement:** Develop measurement skills for length, weight, volume, and time. Solve problems involving measurement conversions.
- **Geometry:** Explore and classify two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional figures. Understand angles, lines, and symmetry.
- **Data and Graphs:** Collect, organize, and interpret data using various graph types. Understand and analyze information presented in graphs and tables.
- **Problem Solving:** Solve word problems involving all four operations and multiple steps. Apply problem-solving strategies and explain mathematical reasoning.
- **Patterns and Algebraic Thinking:** Identify, extend, and create patterns. Introduce basic concepts of algebraic thinking, including expressions and equations.
- **Mathematical Reasoning:** Develop logical reasoning skills. Justify and explain mathematical thinking and strategies.
- **Communication and Mathematical Vocabulary:** Use appropriate mathematical vocabulary to describe and communicate mathematical concepts. Express mathematical ideas clearly and effectively.



- **Real-World Applications:** Apply mathematical concepts to real-world problems. Make connections between mathematics and everyday situations.
- **Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Engage in critical thinking by analyzing and evaluating mathematical information. Explore multiple approaches to problem-solving.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Fourth Grade students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Multiplicative Thinking
- Unit 2: Multi-Digit Multiplication & Early Division
- Unit 3: Fractions & Decimals
- Unit 4: Addition, Subtraction & Measurement
- Unit 5: Geometry & Measurement
- Unit 6: Multiplication & Division, Data & Fractions
- Unit 7: Reviewing & Extending Fractions, Decimals & Multi-Digit Multiplication

### SCIENCE

In grades K-5, District 92 utilizes Mystery Science, a standards-aligned science curriculum that engages students to explore scientific phenomena through hands-on activities. This approach helps students develop critical thinking skills and a deep understanding of scientific concepts. Mystery Science is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectations, science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. Fourth graders will investigate:

- Earth's Features & Processes
- Sound Waves & Communication
- Energy, Energy Transfer, & Electricity

### SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Studies Standards for fourth grade are aligned with the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standards and encompass a variety of topics to promote students' understanding of social studies concepts and skills. The standards are organized into four main strands: Civics, Economics, Geography, and History. Teachers often use various instructional materials and resources to address these standards, fostering a comprehensive understanding of social studies concepts in fourth-grade students.



## **SPECIALS**

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

### **MUSIC**

In fourth-grade music class, students continue to build upon the foundational musical concepts introduced in earlier grades. The focus is on further developing students' musical skills, deepening their understanding of musical elements, and fostering creative expression. The focus in fourth-grade music class is to continue creating a positive and inclusive environment where students can deepen their musical understanding, enhance their skills, and express themselves creatively through music.

### **ART**

The elementary art curriculum in District 92 is designed to provide students with a well-rounded art education that fosters creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for various art forms. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the elementary grades, introducing them to various artistic techniques, media, and concepts. The 4th-grade curriculum is designed to deepen students' understanding of the 7 ELEMENTS OF ART while focusing on concepts of symmetry, color theory, printing, and different types of subject matter.

### **LIBRARY/MEDIA**

In fourth grade, students continue to build upon their library and media skills, further developing their ability to navigate information resources, conduct research, and engage with various forms of media. These library and media skills in fourth grade aim to prepare students for more independent and sophisticated information exploration, research, and media consumption. The goal is to empower students to be critical thinkers, responsible digital citizens, and lifelong learners.