



Overview of Fourth Grade Learning Goals

Washington Irving Intermediate School

Our 3-5 curriculum builds on the foundational skills and dispositions of our **Portrait of a Learner**. Through more complex and challenging activities, we continue to enhance communication, executive functioning, creativity, and critical thinking. Students are encouraged to explore their curiosity, persevere through obstacles, develop socio-cultural competence, and engage in civic-minded projects. This approach ensures they grow into thoughtful, innovative, and responsible individuals, well-prepared for future academic and personal success.

Literacy



Oral Language – Students participate in discussions and presentations, summarizing key points, retelling stories, and delivering presentations. Through collaborative activities, they refine listening and speaking skills, contributing to discussions and building on others' ideas.

Phonological Awareness – Students needing support will receive appropriate interventions based on individual needs.

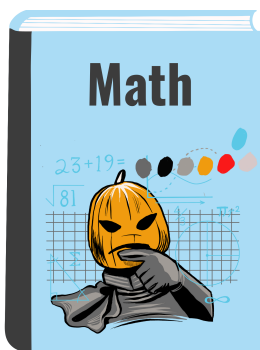
Phonics – Students needing support will receive appropriate interventions based on individual needs.

Vocabulary – Students use diverse strategies to expand word knowledge, with explicit vocabulary instruction through definitions, examples, and contextual usage. Reading a wide range of genres cultivates a rich vocabulary, while writing tasks provide opportunities to incorporate new words. Students understand word structures, using precise language with interactive read-aloud sessions reinforcing vocabulary acquisition.

Fluency – Students enhance fluency in both reading and writing through explicit instruction, developing decoding strategies, expression, and comprehension skills. They will be guided through the writing process, mastering sentence structure, vocabulary, and organizational techniques, with modeled and supported practice sessions.

Comprehension – Students analyze texts across genres, identifying main ideas, themes, key details and text structures, while inferring meanings and author's intentions using text evidence. In writing, students organize their ideas, elaborate with details and examples, support arguments with text evidence, and revise and edit to improve clarity and structure.

Mathematics



Students deepen their understanding of mathematics by generalizing their grasp of place value to multi-digit numbers and fluently **adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers**. They will employ strategies and properties to confidently **multiply and divide by both one- and two-digit numbers**, while also applying these operations to **real-world problem-solving** scenarios. Students will delve into **factors, multiples, and fraction equivalence** and ordering, extending their comprehension to include **addition, subtraction, and multiplication of fractions**. Additionally, students will **interpret data** on line plots, **understand and compare decimals**, and master **geometric concepts** such as angles and shape properties.

Science



Processing Information – Students learn how organisms gather information from the world around them, and explore the role of sensory receptors in helping plants and animals survive.

Forms of Energy and Energy Transfer – Students explore different forms of energy like light, sound, movement (kinetic), and heat (thermal). They investigate energy transfer, uncovering how energy can change from one form to another.

Wave Patterns and Energy – Students learn the characteristics and types of waves and discover fascinating patterns in wave behavior, connecting concepts to the real world.

Earth's Changes – Students explore the natural processes that shape Earth's features, and how these changes impact human communities, from landform formation to weathering and erosion. They also explore how humans adapt to and mitigate Earth's ever-changing nature.

Social Studies

Our curriculum ignites curiosity in our scholars through essential questions that explore the power of geography, the rise of complex societies, the drive for exploration, the concept of freedom, and the forces shaping nations.

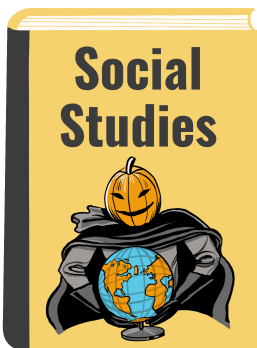
Why Does Geography Matter? – Students analyze historical maps, exploring how geography influenced empires, trade routes, and cultural development.

What Makes a Complex Society? – Students compare simple and complex societies by researching historical civilizations and examining governments and technology.

What Drives Exploration and Colonization? – Students analyze historical exploration and colonization motivations, considering factors like trade, resources, religion, and competition. Discussions and simulations explore the impact on different cultures.

What Does it Mean to be Free? – Research projects on historical figures or movements will showcase the fight for freedom and its ongoing importance, allowing students to explore the concept of freedom throughout history.

How is a Nation Shaped? – Analyzing historical documents and inventions shows how people, laws, and new technology shape a nation's identity and development. Students investigate the role of citizens and laws in shaping nations.



STEAM & Computer Science



Digital Literacy & Citizenship – Students focus on digital literacy skills, such as understanding networks and the internet and managing digital file storage. This happens alongside learning the basics of cybersecurity, such as recognizing and responding to unusual and suspicious activity.

Computer Science & Robotics – Students explore computer science concepts, including refining algorithms using loops and conditionals. They then apply these skills to program robots through digital and "unplugged" (tech-free) activities.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) – Through hands-on activities, students use the engineering design process, applying problem-solving skills to real-world challenges.

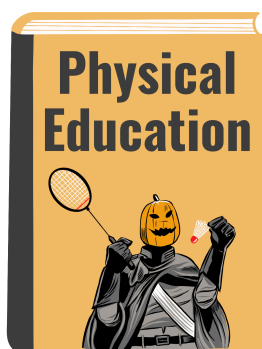
Visual & Performing Arts



Art – Students deepen visual arts skills by creating *artworks demonstrating an understanding of artistic processes and techniques*. They analyze and interpret artworks using a variety of art vocabulary, connecting art to personal experiences and cultural contexts. Students reflect on their own and others' artworks, developing critical thinking skills and a greater appreciation for diverse artistic expressions. Concepts include *clay and advanced mixed media use*.

Music – Students expand their skills by analyzing and interpreting musical elements like form and texture. They perform with increased technical proficiency and expressive qualities, creating more intricate musical compositions. Students explore music from diverse cultures and historical periods, broadening their understanding of global musical traditions. *Band and String instrument lessons begin*.

Physical Education & Health



Motor Skills and Movement Competency – Students demonstrate proficiency in various motor and movement patterns, utilizing locomotor and non-locomotor skills in PE activities.

Application of Skills in Physical Activities – Students combine locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills in physical activities.

Achieving Health-Enhancing Fitness – Students explain skill-related fitness components, showcasing the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain physical activity and fitness.

Responsible Behavior in Physical Activity – Students monitor personal behavior by participating responsibly in diverse physical activities and respecting themselves and others.

Recognizing Wellness Benefits – Students identify the link between physical activity and overall wellness, explaining how health-enhancing behaviors impact wellness and the benefits of physical activity, as well as the consequences of inactivity.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)



Growth Mindset & Goal Setting – Students focus on setting goals and making plans to reach them. They evaluate their progress and identify roadblocks.

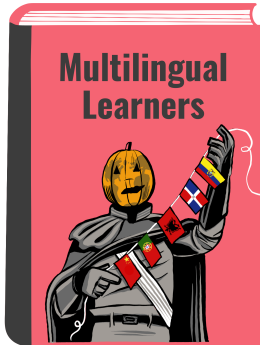
Emotion Management – Students learn the role, purpose and impact of different emotions, recognizing that strong emotions make it difficult to think clearly and managing emotions is necessary to making good decisions.

Empathy and Kindness – Students identify empathy and kindness by describing how different points of view can build empathy. They ask questions to build empathy for people whose points of view are different from their own.

Problem-Solving – Students understand the importance of feeling calm before solving a problem. They learn to state the problem without blame or name-calling, and state what each person wants or needs. Students also think of solutions to a problem and explore outcomes by considering each person's point of view.

Multilingual Learners

Our language learners focus on the *4+1 language domains* (Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, & Metalinguistic awareness). The following are assessed based on the student's English language proficiency level (entering, emerging, transitioning, expanding, commanding).



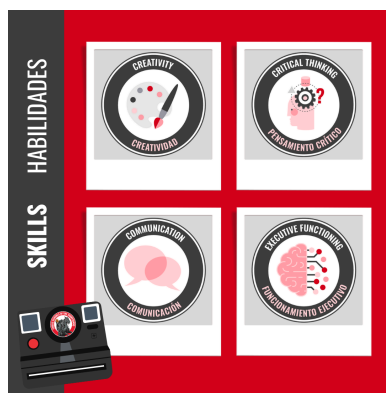
Reading – Students determine elements, connections, and topics that are established by text structures in grade-level texts.

Writing – Students use appropriate language to provide or refer to detailed descriptions and events in sequence to develop a narrative text.

Listening – Students identify words, phrases, or sentences that signal or describe key details, sequence, connections, and/or relationships in spoken discourse.

Speaking – Students use appropriate language to analyze a topic and provide an opinion supported by a reason.

Portrait of a Learner



Skills:

Communication – We empower students to express themselves clearly, thoughtfully, and persuasively in written and spoken forms, fostering understanding of diverse perspectives.

Executive Functioning – Students develop organization, time management, and problem-solving skills to navigate life's challenges and opportunities.

Creativity – We encourage students to think imaginatively, generate innovative ideas, and approach issues from fresh angles, cultivating open-mindedness and adaptability.

Critical Thinking – Students will evaluate information, analyze complex situations, and make informed decisions, inspiring intellectual curiosity and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Dispositions:

Curiosity – We nurture a sense of wonder and inquisitiveness, motivating students to explore, question, and seek answers, propelling personal growth and a love of discovery.

Perseverance – Students learn to face adversity with determination and push forward to pursue goals, setting the stage for personal achievement and resilience.

Socio-Cultural Competence – Students engage respectfully and effectively with diverse individuals, fostering empathy, inclusivity, and a deeper understanding of global issues.

Civic Mindfulness – We cultivate a strong sense of civic responsibility, inspiring students to impact their community and promoting active engagement for the betterment of society.