

GRADE FOUR

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The reading/language arts program is designed to balance instruction in reading skills and strategies. This program is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers will provide differentiated instruction through a broad variety of genres to read. Students will develop readiness through guided reading, vocabulary instruction, grammar, and writing. Students will have the opportunity to use an interactive website to reinforce or enrich skills taught throughout the year. McGraw-Hill *Wonders* is our core language arts program.

READING

Fourth grade students will read literature and information text from a broad range of genres, cultures, and periods.

Strategies and skills incorporated in the fourth grade reading program include:

- Decode words and use context clues to construct meaning
- Access complex text
- Identify and analyze characters, plot development/events and setting
- Ask and answer questions
- Reflect, respond, make inferences, and draw conclusions, citing evidence from literature and informational text
- Summarize a piece of literature or informational text
- Read orally with fluency by using appropriate rate, expression, intonation, and phrasing
- Make connections between and across text
- Use and identify descriptive, figurative language and imagery
- Identify the theme, central message, moral or lesson
- Sequence, place in chronological order or time the events
- Identify word origins
- Identify cause and effect
- Find and locate information using print and digital resources
- Identify structural features of various types of media (including digital) and use the features to obtain information
- Interpret information from graphic aids

WRITING

Writing is taught using exemplary mentor text and *Wonders* focusing on the 6-Traits of Writing, including: ideas, organization, word choice, voice, sentence fluency and conventions. Students will:

- Reflect and respond to text citing text evidence
- Locate, use and explain information from more than one text
- Use correct prewriting strategies to generate and plan ideas
- Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence structure
- Incorporate correct use of dialogue in a story
- Use appropriate transition words within writing
- Develop paragraphs that contain main idea, supporting key details, a beginning, middle and end

Palos Community Consolidated School District 118 Palos Park, IL

HANDWRITING

Fourth grade students practice cursive penmanship through the use of daily writing activities.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Students will develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills. Students will learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual and media sources to assist with communicating their ideas.

INFORMATION FLUENCY SKILLS/TECHNOLOGY

Technology skills taught to students in the classroom and media center are integrated throughout the curriculum to support and enhance learning. Fourth grade students will review keyboarding skills previously taught utilizing Typing Pal.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Teaching Digital Citizenship is critical to a child’s online safety. The curriculum utilized in fourth grade will provide teachers an opportunity to engage students to think critically and make responsible choices. The curriculum includes lessons on Internet safety, communication, cyberbullying, importance of a digital footprint, information literacy and copyright.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics skills, strategies and concepts are taught through a variety of resources including textbooks, manipulatives, and digital tools for an interactive experience. The students will focus on four critical areas: extending understanding of base-ten notation, building fluency with addition and subtraction, using standard units of measure and describing and analyzing shapes. Pearson’s *enVisionmath2.0* is our core mathematics program that is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

Fourth grade students will be taught the following:

- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
 - ✓ Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
 - ✓ Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
 - ✓ Generate and analyze patterns
- Number and Operations in Base Ten
 - ✓ Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
 - ✓ Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic

- Number and Operations- Fractions
 - ✓ Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
 - ✓ Build fractions from unit fractions
 - ✓ Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions
- Measurement and Data
 - ✓ Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements
 - ✓ Represent and interpret data
 - ✓ Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles
- Geometry
 - ✓ Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles
- Fluency
 - ✓ Build fluency with multiplication and division facts

Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

SCIENCE

Inquiry into science topics is pursued using textbooks, non-fiction literature, “hands on” experimentation and the scientific inquiry method. Grades K-4 will be using *Mystery Science*, which is fully aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Fourth grade students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following topics:

Physical Science

- Energy and Speed
- Motion of Waves
- Transfer of Energy in Collision
- Sounds, Vibration, and Waves
- Energy and Electric Currents
- Light Reflection
- Energy and Collision
- Information Technologies

Life Science

- Plant and Animal Parts
- Sense Receptors

Earth and Space Science

- Rock Patterns
- Natural Processes

EARTH SCIENCE (continued)

- Plants' Effect on Regions
- Renewable & Nonrenewable Resources
- Plate Tectonics

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Illinois Social Science Standards are designed to build conceptual understanding through the study of historical events while developing student inquiry, civic awareness, geography, and economic and financial literacy skills. The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for themselves and the public good.

Fourth grade students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following topics:

U.S. Regions

Economics

Government

Significant Contributions of Important People

FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts teachers in District 118 have constructed a comprehensive, integrated, sequential curriculum to develop the whole child. Through “hands on” interaction students will develop criticism skills, an aesthetic appreciation of the Arts, and study the historical perspectives that help shape our society.

ART

In fourth grade, students will explore a variety of more sophisticated materials and techniques. Students will:

- Experiment with tools
- Use elements and principles of art to express ideas
- Talk about and share products and experiences
- Interpret artistic products and experiences
- Artistically explore to solve problems

MUSIC

In fourth grade, students will recognize how music and movement reflect various cultures. Students will:

- Learn by singing, moving, playing, reading, and creating
- Increase proficiency with symbolic notation
- Interpret musical compositions and literature through moving, drawing, playing, and listening
- Study the evolution of the symphony orchestra

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program is planned around the growth and development of the child. It provides a wide range of activities consistent with the requirements of our state goals. In fourth grade students will:

- Develop physical skills through lead-up games
- Understand the components of physical fitness
- Demonstrate safety awareness
- Combine the elements of dance to express ideas through movement
- Develop socialization skills

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (continued)

- Develop strategies for team building

- Participate in health-related fitness testing
- Learn and apply health and wellness concepts

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing the whole child is essential in creating a foundation for each student to be able to reach his/her full potential. All fourth-grade classrooms will be using the Responsive Classroom Program to create an environment where students feel safe and are free to learn. The social emotional curriculum includes grade appropriate activities for the following core elements:

- Identify and manage one's emotions and behavior
- Recognize personal qualities and external supports
- Demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals
- Recognize feelings and perspective of others
- Recognize individual and group similarities and differences
- Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts
- Consider ethical, safety, and societal factors in making decisions
- Apply decision-making skills to deal responsibly with daily academic and social situations
- Contribute to the well-being of one's school and community

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Suggestions from the fourth-grade teams at Palos East and Palos West:

- Read with your child daily and discuss what you have read together.
- Engage in daily conversations relating to a variety of topics including moral issues and values, family history, current events, etc.
- Provide your child with a variety of cultural experiences.
- Instruct your child in social and personal etiquette.
- Regularly review basic math facts.
- Allow your child to be responsible for starting and finishing activities including homework, projects, household chores, etc.
- Communicate the importance of quality work by looking over and discussing your child's schoolwork.
- Check SeeSaw and/or your child's assignment notebook daily.

PALOS DISTRICT 118

Grade Four

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August 2024

To support your involvement in your child's education, we have compiled this comprehensive outline of what your child will be taught at this grade level. You can positively impact your child's academic success by becoming familiar with this curriculum and by monitoring your child's progress throughout the year. Ultimately, our joint goal is to produce self-directed students who also establish personal learning goals and regularly monitor their own progress.

District 118 teachers and administrators have developed grade level skills and expectations based on the Illinois Learning Standards, national standards, and updated research. Our community's standards and grade level expectations are often higher than those suggested by our Illinois State Board of Education. Such expectations are incorporated within and continue to produce excellence in our students as indicated on state testing. We are, of course, always seeking to continually improve.

If you have specific questions regarding curriculum or school programs, please call your child's teacher or principal. Additionally, a wealth of information can be found regarding District 118 academics and programs at www.palos118.org.

We are confident that your child will have a successful school year!

Kind Regards,

*Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools*

*Dr. Ron Cozza
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum*

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