English/Language Arts: Grade 4 Curriculum Overview

In grade 4, our learning goals are based on the Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts Incorporating the Common Core. We utilize the board adopted series, *Benchmark Advance* from the Benchmark Education Company to provide learning opportunities to our students. The materials are all consumables and interactive for students.

Skills to be developed throughout the course:
Reading Literature and Informational Text
- Find key ideas and details in both literature and informational text
- Determine theme of a story, poem, and/or drama
- Describe elements of a story, poem, drama such as characters, setting, or events
- Analyze the craft and structure of a text in multiple genres and with varying narration
- Make connections within a text
- Compare and contrast various themes and topics
- Determine the overall structure of a text
- Use reasons and evidence to support points in a text

Grammar
- Apply word analysis skills to determine word meanings
- Produce complete sentences and recognize fragment and run - on sentences
- Form and use proper use of standard conventional patterns
- Demonstrate commands of proper capitalization, punctuation, and spelling

Writing
- Write opinion pieces with reasons and evidence as support
- Write informative/explanatory pieces to examine a topic and convey ideas
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences
- Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events
- Conduct short research projects incorporating different aspects of a topic or perspective

Units of Study:
- Observing Nature
- Characters' Actions and Reactions
- Government in Action
- Understanding Different Points of View
- Technology for Tomorrow
- Confronting Challenges
- The Transcontinental Railroad
- Earth Changes
- Resources and their Impact
- The Power of Electricity

The Learning Standards for this course are the Illinois Social Science Standards.
- [The New Illinois Standards for English Language Incorporating the Common Core](#)