



Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview



Literacy

The mission of the District 30 English Language Arts program is to challenge our students through effective instruction in the skills required to live and work in a 21st century global community. The primary grades lay the foundation for learning and skill development with a comprehensive reading program including phonological awareness and phonics instruction. Each succeeding grade builds upon the achievement of students, as they become fluent readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and viewers. With texts and tasks that become increasingly sophisticated through the grades, students develop confidence and proficiency in oral and written language, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. District 30 recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction to maximize achievement for all students. Language skills are essential to furthering learning, communication, career development, and the human spirit.

The fourth grade balanced literacy curriculum includes:

- Explicit reading comprehensive strategy instruction (integrating all reading strategies with an emphasis on “inferring”, determining importance”, “synthesis”)
- Reading and writing in narrative, information, and opinion genres; including research, essays, poetry, and mythology
- Word work (vocabulary, spelling, and phonics)
- Grammar
- Independent reading and writing
- Small group work
- Conferences



Social Studies

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to promote informed citizenship. Our curriculum is designed to tell the story of who we are as citizens of the United States and of a larger global society. As educators of 21st century learners, our job is to prepare students to be able to critically participate as active citizens with the ability to intelligently and compassionately participate in our democracy in this millennium (NCSS, Media Literacy, 2009).

Our curriculum thoughtfully integrates the disciplines of history, geography, economics, and civics to encourage young people to use inquiry to develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world. Units of study are grounded in the inquiry process, in which students acquire key concepts and skills through questioning, analysis, and critical thinking.

The theme of the 4th grade curriculum is “Our State, Our Nation”.

Units include:

- What is the Story of America
- Our State (Illinois)
- Our Nation (Regions of the United States)

The District 30 curriculum is being developed in alignment with Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Standards and has been informed by current research and best practice in the field.



Mathematics

The District 30 mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Concepts are taught utilizing a concrete, pictorial, abstract learning progression through daily lessons, hands on activities, real-world problems, and differentiated math workshop experiences.

Mathematical thinking and fluency is embedded throughout the curriculum. Students become mathematicians engaging in a mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in solving problems, modeling mathematics, and utilizing appropriate math tools. These mathematical practices are distinct from specific content students learn because the practices are characteristics of broader behavior, rather than mastery of a single concept or idea.

The mathematical practices, skills and concepts connect and build across the grade levels. In grades K-5 students utilize Math in Focus by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt as the primary resource.

4th Grade Mathematicians:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit numbers
- Use place value understanding to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Understand addition and subtraction of fractions
- Multiply fractions by whole numbers
- Understand and compare decimals and fractions
- Represent and interpret data
- Apply the area and perimeter formulas
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements
- Apply mathematical practices to real world situations



Science

The District 30 elementary science curriculum engages students as scientists. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices in earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering design.

The fourth grade science curriculum includes the following units:

- **Birth of Rocks:** Students investigate features and processes of the Earth's surface. Students explore the rapid process of volcanic eruptions! In contrast, students also explore the gradual Earth processes of weathering and erosion. Students apply their knowledge and design solutions to mitigate the impacts of these processes on humans.
- **Sounds Waves and Communication:** Students explore the science of sound. Students construct physical devices to feel the vibrations that allow us to communicate across distances. Students also use digital devices to visualize the characteristics of different sound waves that cause us to hear different things.
- **Energy, Energy Transfer, and Electricity:** Students learn how energy is stored, how it can make objects move, and how collisions transfer energy between objects. Students also construct devices that convert energy from one form into another, such as heat into motion and electricity into light.

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