

Concord Public Schools



Curriculum Overview Grade 4

CPS Mission

To educate all students as lifelong learners, caring citizens, and responsible contributors in our increasingly diverse global society.

CPS Vision

Students of Concord actively seek varied pathways through which they achieve their potential and find joy in learning. They will possess a strong sense of self and embrace their responsibilities as members of our ever-changing local and global communities.

CPS Values

- Belonging
- Excellence
- Engagement
- Inclusion
- Innovation

English Language Arts

The Grade 4 literacy curriculum promotes independence and ownership in reading, writing, listening and speaking with exposure to high-quality literature and non-fiction texts with increasing rigor. Students will acquire essential and effective independent reading habits as they read and discuss texts across subject areas. They will practice effectively communicating through written pieces using evidence and supporting details. Students participate in daily readers' and writers' workshops that include a focus lesson, small group work, and independent practice allowing for differentiated instruction.

Grade 4 Content Standards

Reading

- Read grade-level texts with accuracy and fluency to support understanding
- Determine the theme and summarize important ideas and key details
- Use multiple text sources and provide evidence to support conclusions

Writing

- Compose pieces across content areas in narrative, opinion, and informative form
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, and editing

Speaking & Listening

- Communicate effectively while contributing to a range of discussions

Language Conventions

- Demonstrate command of standard English conventions
- Spell high-frequency and learned spelling patterns when writing
- Acquire new vocabulary across the curriculum

Math

Through the Everyday Math 4 curriculum, students engage in a daily math block with emphasis on the use of concrete, real-life examples of key mathematical concepts, use of hands on manipulatives, collaborative games, and exposure and practice with multiple problem-solving strategies. Everyday Math is a spiral curriculum; essential content is revisited repeatedly over months and across grades. Content is differentiated to meet student needs to provide a balanced combination of procedure and understanding.

K - 5 Mathematical Practice Standards: Makes sense of problems and persevere in solving them; constructs viable arguments and critiques the reasoning of others; models with mathematics; attends to precision

Grade 4 Content Standards

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 by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit
- 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

Social Studies

Students study the geography and people of the United States today. They apply concepts of how geography affects human settlement and resource use and how the westward expansion of the United States created a modern nation of 50 states and 16 territories. Also, students explore the push and pull factors of people immigrating to the United States from the 1600s to the present day. Students seek to answer these essential questions: *Why are maps important to an understanding of the world and specific regions and places in the world? How and why do maps change over time? How has the environment shaped the development of each region? What are the different reasons people choose to migrate or immigrate? What are the rights and responsibilities of a citizen?*

Science

The elementary science program is designed with inquiry-based experiences that promote the development of science and engineering practices including measuring; observing phenomena; making predictions; collecting, organizing recording, analyzing and interpreting data; formulating and generating questions; forming hypotheses; designing experiments; and drawing conclusions.

Life Science: Headstarting Blandings' Turtles

Earth Science: Soils, Rocks, and Landforms

Physical Science: Energy

Technology/Engineering: At the STEAM Lab, Students progress through the steps of the Engineering Design Process as they work collaboratively to come up with solutions to content-aligned challenges.

Specialist Subjects

Art

Students work with a variety of art materials to explore drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and sculpture. All art lessons are sufficiently open ended to encourage individual problem solving at the appropriate developmental level. While the design of the art lessons directs students toward a specific concept or lesson objective, one of the unique aspects of the art curriculum is that there is never a "right answer". Instead, problem solving belongs to each individual student. At all levels, the lessons aim to encourage students to consider the questions: *What is my idea? How can I use what I know about this material to communicate my idea? What visual strategies do I know and what are some new ones I can discover? What can I learn from my classmates during this process?*

Library

Students will identify various literary genres and understand the organization of the library. They will develop keyword and search strategies for online and print sources. Students will explore digital citizenship topics including how to protect personal and private information, how to recognize acts of cyberbullying and how to react responsibly, and the importance of a digital footprint. Students will begin to understand responsible use, copyright, and fair use. They will evaluate websites for usefulness and appropriateness. They will recognize forms of media including advertising techniques, the influence they have, and begin to understand the importance of media wellness.

Music

Grade 4 Music is built on a foundation of feeling the steady beat, singing, listening and moving to a varied seasonal and multi-cultural repertory of songs, dances and games. Students explore minor tonality through the pentatone and add syncopated rhythms to previously learned rhythms Ta (quarter note), Ta-di (beamed eighth note), quarter rest, "Too" (half note), and "Ta-ka-di-mi" (sixteenth notes). These concepts of rhythm, melody, form and harmony are also experienced through active participation in playing classroom rhythmic and melodic instruments, reading and writing standard notation, improvisation and composition. Students will apply the concepts listed previously to a new instrument, the ukulele. In addition, students experience a district-wide "Musician of the Month." Fourth graders may elect to participate in the Orchestra, Band, and Chorus programs.

Physical Education

The physical education program provides diverse motor experiences to foster positive attitudes toward exercise. Engaging activities enable students to develop crucial skills

Physical Education (continued)

including strength, speed, coordination, self-confidence, and self-image. The curriculum emphasizes refining intermediate skills in movement patterns, ball activities, and fitness through participation in team games, cooperative exercises, gymnastics, and dance. Additionally, special attention is given to promoting cardiovascular performance for overall health and well-being, while nurturing social and emotional growth through instruction in concepts like cooperation, problem-solving, teamwork, fair play, and respect for differences.

Spanish

Students receive Spanish instruction with lessons centered on these essential questions: *Who am I? How do I talk about school supplies and what different classes I have in school? How can one person make a difference in their community?* Students learn the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures through direct instruction, stories, songs, videos, games, and varied activities. The topics covered in fourth grade include school supplies and other vocabulary related to school.

Social Emotional Learning

SEL is an integral part of education and human development. It sets the foundation for learning as students learn the concepts and skills that allow them to be self-reliant, work collaboratively, and be positive, respectful members of their school/classroom communities. Through the Responsive Classroom approach, Concord students learn and practice these SEL competencies:

- Self-Management
- Self-Awareness
- Responsible Decision Making
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills

