



# Fourth Grade Instructional Plan: First Semester

## Course Overview

**Fourth Grade Reading Language Arts** course is designed to build strong foundational literacy skills using the Amplify Texas curriculum. Students will engage in a dynamic and integrated approach to reading, writing, speaking, and listening through a variety of texts and interactive lessons. With a focus on comprehension, vocabulary, and critical thinking, students will read both literary and informational texts that reflect diverse cultures and historical perspectives.

Throughout the year, students will deepen their understanding of text structures, author's purpose, and point of view, while also developing the ability to write clearly and effectively for various purposes. Amplify's approach uses knowledge-building units and research-based instruction to prepare students for future academic success.

### Throughout the year, students will:

- Read closely and comprehend a variety of complex literary and informational texts.
- Develop vocabulary through morphology, context, word study, and use in writing/speaking.
- Write across genres (narrative, informational, opinion, poetry), using evidence and conventions.
- Engage in oral discourse—listening, speaking, and discussion protocols embedded in instruction.
- Demonstrate fluency, foundational reading skills, and writing process understanding (editing, publishing).
- Write text-supported claims and evidence, using clear, concise informational or argumentative language.

**Fourth Grade Mathematics** is designed to develop confident problem-solvers through a structured, standards-based approach aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the rigor of the STAAR assessment. Students will strengthen their skills in number sense, place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, measurement, geometry, and data analysis while applying mathematical reasoning to real-world situations. Instruction will be explicit, systematic, and scaffolded to ensure all learners can master grade-level expectations and demonstrate readiness for STAAR and future math courses.

### Throughout the year, students will:

- Develop and strengthen number sense and place value understanding up to the millions place
- Add and subtract whole numbers up to 1,000,000 using strategies and algorithms
- Multiply and divide whole numbers up to 1,000 using strategies and algorithms
- Represent and interpret data using tables, pictographs, bar graphs, and line plots
- Identify, describe, and classify two- and three-dimensional figures based on attributes
- Apply measurement skills including area, perimeter, elapsed time, and liquid volume
- Understand and apply fractions as numbers and parts of a whole, including equivalent fractions and comparing fractions
- Explain mathematical reasoning and solutions using models, symbols, and precise vocabulary



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**Fourth grade science** in Texas is an integrated course that encompasses physical, earth, and life sciences. Instruction is guided by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and emphasizes developing a deep understanding of core scientific concepts. Students will actively engage in hands-on lab investigations, STEM activities, and real-world applications to make learning meaningful and relevant.

Throughout the year, students will practice scientific inquiry, analyze data, and use evidence to construct explanations. The curriculum also highlights the connections between science and everyday life, helping students see the value and impact of science in the world around them.

## Throughout the year, students will:

- Hands-On Investigations: frequent TEKS-aligned labs
- Interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Modeling & Simulations: Digital and physical models to support abstract concepts
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities, peer discussion, and cooperative lab work
- STEM Challenges: Engineering design activities tied to real-world problems
- Spiraling Review: Reinforcement of previously taught standards across the year

**Fourth Grade Social Studies** in Texas is an integrated course focused on the rich and complex history of the state. Aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), the curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of key historical concepts, events, and figures that shaped Texas from its early beginnings through its incorporation into the United States and beyond. Students explore a chronological timeline of Texas history, developing critical thinking skills as they analyze causes and effects, make connections, and evaluate the impact of historical developments on modern Texas.

## Throughout the year, students will:

- Think Like a Historian
- Interactive Notebooks: Used for vocabulary, diagrams, notes, and reflections
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities and Peer Discussions
- Spiraling Review: Reinforcement of previously taught standards across the year

## Classroom Expectations

Our classroom is a safe learning place, which encourages teamwork, positive feedback, and academic achievement. All students will be respectful to others. We will be good listeners to the teacher and to other's ideas. All students will be hard working contributors in the process of getting their education in order to be successful and reach their full potential.

### Expectation 1: We are Safe

- We walk in the classroom
- Keep hands, feet, and other objects to self

### Expectation 2: We are Respectful

- Listen to others and the teacher
- Treat others the way you would want to be treated

### Expectation 3: We are Responsible

- Complete all assigned tasks
- Engage in class discussions, writing tasks, and learning opportunities
- Complete work on time



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Positive reinforcement and clear routines will help students learn and meet these expectations. If expectations are not met, the teacher will first reteach and remind the student(s) of expectations. If a student continues to fail to meet expectations, they will be redirected, then parents will be contacted. If a student is unable to meet expectations after these preventative measures, an office referral will be made.

## Attendance Policy & Its Importance

Regular attendance is vital to your child's academic development. Fourth grade is an important year in Reading Language Arts - this year lays the foundation for future Reading Language Arts courses. When students attend daily, they stay current with new skills, deepening their knowledge of the world, develop thinking skills, and practice important habits that support lifelong learning.

**Please notify the school if your child will be absent.** Frequent or extended absences may make it more difficult for your child to learn necessary foundational skills that ensure student success this year and in future school years.

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the first semester, students will be able to:

Using Amplify Texas students will:

- Make inferences and summarize using text evidence
- Understand structure, organization, and author's purpose
- Analyze themes, main ideas, and compare across texts
- Describe, compare, and track changes in characters and relationships
- Use dialogue, actions, and interactions for analysis
- Understand word meaning using context clues
- Analyze figurative language and author's word choice
- Identify narrative elements and structure
- Write personal narratives and reflect on learning
- Identify cause and effect relationships
- Understand why authors use text structure
- Revise by removing, rearranging, and adding ideas
- Revise by adding central idea, introduction, and transitions
- Edit by checking sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling.

Using **Accelerate Learning STEMscopes (Texas)**, students will develop math skills such as:

- Solve problems involving whole numbers, fractions, and decimals using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understand and represent ratios and equivalent fractions in real-world contexts
- Write, interpret, and solve simple one-variable equations and inequalities
- Represent and analyze data using line plots, bar graphs, and pictographs



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- Apply geometric concepts to find area and perimeter of two-dimensional figures
- Use models, diagrams, and precise mathematical vocabulary to explain and justify solutions

### Using SAVVAS, students will develop science knowledge such as:

- Safety and Scientific Method
- Physical Properties of Matter
- Mixtures and Solutions
- Water Cycle, Weather & Climate
- Natural Resources

### Using Lowman, students will develop Social Studies knowledge such as:

- Thinking like a Historian
- Geography of Texas
- American Indian Life in Texas
- Exploration and Colonization
- Independence-Annexation

### Course Resources

- Chromebook (provided by Midland ISD)
- Journals and writing utensils (part of the school supply list)
- Amplify Texas
- STEM Scopes Curriculum
- I-Ready
- SAVVAS
- Science Penguin

### Grading Policy

- Parents are encouraged to reach out with any concerns about grades, missing work, or patterns of low performance. Before contacting campus administration, parents should request a conference with the teacher to resolve concerns.
- Grades are updated in Skyward weekly and teachers typically respond to parent inquiries within two school days.
- Students in grades 3–6 receive at least five minor and one major grades per six-week period, with timely feedback—minor grades within 3–5 days, major grades within 10 days.
  - Major assignments - 40%
  - Minor assignments - 60%
- Make-up work is allowed after absences, within one week of the day missed.
- Grades are confidential, and missing work may be indicated by a 50 in Skyward.
- Students consistently missing assignments will require a parent-teacher conference.
- For lesson concerns, families should first meet with the teacher.



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- Regular communication may be electronic through an email or ClassDojo. Teachers will maintain a parent communication log during each grading cycle.

### Corrections

- Corrections are to be completed at home. Corrections may raise a student's grade up to a maximum of 70. Graded papers will be sent home in their daily folder, and corrected papers must be returned before the end of the 6 weeks. At Yarbrough Elementary, communication about student grades is a shared responsibility between teachers and families.

### Google Classroom:

Students will use Google Classroom throughout the school year. Grades may be assigned based on work submitted through Google Classroom. Corrections on Google Classroom assignments are allowed. Teachers will give directions on how to correct online assignments.

### Class DoJo (School-wide System of Communication)

Our campus uses ClassDoJo to communicate with families. Please ensure you join our class for important updates.

### Chromebook Use and Care:

Chromebooks will be sent home every day unless we are testing. It is the student's responsibility to charge chromebooks at home and bring chromebooks to school each day. Chromebooks will be used daily for all activities, including assignments and tests. Students are responsible for the care and proper use of their chromebook. Any repair costs due to damage will be the responsibility of the student's guardian. Insurance for laptops is available for purchase at <https://securranty.com/midlandisd>.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. We are excited to work together to make this a successful year of learning!

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### Please fill out the portion below and return this portion to your teacher.

We acknowledge that we have read and that we understand the expectations in 4th Grade Reading Language Arts. We agree to contact the teacher should we have any questions or concerns regarding this instructional plan.

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_



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Parent Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_