

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Solidly in Upper School, fourth graders soar academically and socially, exploding with curiosity and excitement.

The interdisciplinary mammal project is a highlight in which students work with art, reading, and writing to discover how they can use their academic skills to bring animals to life.

A field trip to Lafayette Square is another memorable experience in which students blend architecture, painting, and writing to capture the personality of a historic home.

In math, students are challenged to apply their conceptual understanding to real world scenarios and sharpen their skills with projects such as designing a garden.

Fourth graders also lead with heart as they visit the Humane Society and explore ways that they can positively impact the world.

Class literature opens students' horizons and cultivates empathy in the exploration of perspectives and experiences across cultures and throughout history.

In the classroom, students are supported in their growing executive functioning and study skills as homework and study expectations gradually increase and students are introduced to two new teachers for social studies and science.

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Reading

Read class literature books across a variety of genres | Develop comprehension skills including making predictions and inferences backed with evidence, summarizing main events, inferring subtle meanings, and making connections within and between texts | Recall and sequence events in novels | Reflect on the development of theme in literature | Express critical thinking about literature both verbally and through written response | Practice comprehension skills through reading nonfiction texts

Class literature includes: *By the Great Hornspoon* | *Number the Stars* | *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Language Arts

Review and deepen understanding of the 6+1 Writing Traits | Compose realistic fiction pieces with story arcs, demonstrating understanding of conflict, climax, resolution, character development, and sequencing | Explore descriptive writing in coordination with the interdisciplinary Lafayette Square project in art, using similes and expressive Language to describe a selected house and reflect on what may have occurred in the home over the Last century | Write "Pumpkin Alley" poems exploring description and characterization guided by an adjective | Research mammals using print and online sources to create expository pieces that answer key research questions | Write, memorize, and perform informative mammal speeches in the first-person | Craft personal essays on influential people, places, and activities, using thesis statements and supporting details in a five-paragraph essay format | Experiment with poetry formats and poetic devices, creating poetry books that include original pieces developed around student-selected themes | Complete journal entries with a focus on practicing narrative and opinion writing with attention to the 6+1 Writing Traits

Mathematics

Complete math projects to provide differentiation, reinforce concepts, make real world connections, and develop problem-solving and executive function skills | Define and classify polygons | Analyze data and explore the differences between bar graphs and line plots | Review addition and subtraction methods | Identify factors and multiples to strengthen multiplication skills | Manipulate number sentences with order of operations | Practice methods for solving large number multiplication and division problems | Explore the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents | Investigate area and perimeter of polygons and volume of geometric solids | Study reflection, rotation, translation, and negative numbers

Resources include: Everyday Math, IXL

Grammar

Review adjective usage and identify places in writing where adjectives could be added | Identify subjects and predicates of sentences | Practice editing to correct run-ons and sentence fragments | Deepen understanding of commonly confused homophones | Review capitalization and punctuation rules for sentences | Study various types of comma usage | Practice using commas and conjunctions to form compound sentences | Explore verb tenses, types of verbs, and subject-verb agreement | Identify and use adverbs to add depth to writing

Social Studies

Examine Native American cultural regions | Study European exploration of North America, beginning with the Vikings and Christopher Columbus | Complete a presentation on the life of an explorer | Explore the first three settlements in America (Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth) and the original thirteen colonies | Develop a brochure advertising an American colony for Europeans that demonstrates understanding of historical context | Learn about the founding fathers and the formation of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights | Research a student-selected American President and present findings

Science

Investigate life science concepts, including how living things are classified, and the different levels of classification | Practice classification by focusing on the plant kingdom | Grow brassica rapa plants, collecting data to investigate plant structures and functions including vascular tissues, tropisms, photosynthesis, and pollination | Study types of energy and changes in form of energy | Differentiate between renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy | Build circuits to manipulate electrical energy, including series, and parallel circuits with switches | Engineer a functioning electrical device | Learn about the composition of the earth | Explore plate tectonics, focusing on how forces beneath the surface shape events and landscapes, such as landforms, earthquakes, and volcanoes

Units of Study: Life Science (Classifications and Kingdoms), Physical Science (Forms of Energy), Earth Science (Earth's Systems & Plate Tectonics)

Art

Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Learn to use scale and proportion in art, especially in understanding architecture | Explore architectural concepts and identify features of historic homes in Lafayette Square before capturing the house in an original sketch and watercolor painting as an interdisciplinary project with writing | Investigate 3-dimensional form, creating realistic pieces | Create relief prints of animals researched in writing class for the traditional, interdisciplinary mammal project

Music

Begin transferring knowledge of notation to reading music on instruments | Develop understanding of sixteenth notes and rests as well as all dotted rhythms | Explore barred instruments | Play xylophones and glockenspiels to demonstrate understanding of the treble clef | Identify and perform accidentals when reading music | Explore the instruments, history, and cultural significance of music in several world cultures across the globe, including Native and Latin American, African, Indian, Middle Eastern, and Asian cultures | Develop rhythm, leadership, and awareness of interdependence by performing five different percussion instruments in an African drumming unit | Learn how to play the recorder and how to perform various songs on the instrument | Foster active listening skills through solfege pitch matching exercises | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn and perform in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Thematic unites present learning communication skills in context (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) | Common verbs conjugated in first, second, and third person | Irregular verbs IR and Tener | Adjective placement | Vocabulary related to seasons, fruits, vegetables, meals, the body, professions, colors, weather, calendar, and shapes and sizes | greetings and farewells | Cultural research project on a Spanish speaking country | Number 1 to 100

Resources include: Primeros Pasos - Mi Mundo, Profedeele, Duolingo

Library

Explain the significance of the Mark Twain Award | Use the library automation system with growing proficiency | Locate nonfiction books to support classroom instruction | Build awareness of the personal impact of using technology and the importance of privacy | Practice using Typesy to develop correct posture and typing skills

Physical Education

Our upper school curriculum is a sports—based curriculum where students will move from skill development towards skill application. From our third to sixth grade, our curriculum fosters teamwork, character, and sportsmanship while also building individual skills and fitness in our students.

Units include: Soccer, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Tumbling, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Dance, Racquet Sports, Track & Field, Softball, Cross Country, Frisbee, Climbing, and Fitness

Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week
Social Studies -- 45 minutes, 4 times a week
Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Music — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Spanish — 45 minutes, 2 times a week
Library — 45 minutes, once weekly
Physical Education — 45 minutes daily