



Grade Level Summary: 4th Grade

Art

Students learn various techniques, skills, and artistic applications by studying historic content and culture through the eyes and hands of an artist. Studies overlap and are integrated with other grade-level subjects and classes. Examples include creating posters to promote California state parks, monuments, and leaders, and producing Gold Rush-themed projects. While exercising drawing and painting techniques, students learn to evaluate their personal work and develop an understanding of the art elements and principles.

Language Arts

Fourth grade uses the Wonders program and additional supplemental resources for Language Arts. Students are taught reading comprehension skills and strategies, while also focusing on vocabulary and grammar. Additional online resources help individualize and differentiate vocabulary. Weekly morphology lessons teach Latin and Greek roots along with common affixes. Grammar focuses on parts of speech, mechanics, and punctuation with daily practice. In writing, students have weekly “write on demand” prompts, and writing instruction focuses on the Six Traits of Writing. Fourth-grade students produce poetry, narrative, persuasive, informative, and research-based pieces. Students participate in small literature groups, which cover at least three novel studies focusing on reading response and discussion, comprehension skills, writing, vocabulary, and small projects.

Library

In fourth grade, students engage in library activities that provide opportunities for them to learn to access, evaluate, use and integrate information literacy skills into all areas of learning. Additionally, students understand that a library provides shared resources that are organized to be accessible to all library users. Fourth graders also understand the general purpose of the library catalog, how to differentiate between primary and secondary sources, and how to perform a basic search of the catalog by title, author, subject, and keyword.

Mathematics

Fourth grade uses the enVision Math curriculum and other supplemental resources to teach students math concepts. Students focus on place value and rounding; numbers and operations; and multiple-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They explore fraction concepts, including comparing, adding, subtracting, and simplifying fractions. Other units covered include decimals, measurement conversions with customary and metric units, area and perimeter, and classification of shapes. Additional online programs are used to practice and differentiate as well as assess student fluency.

Music

Students continue their exploration of their voices, audiation (inner hearing), and more complex rhythm patterns through notation, rhythmic speech, listening maps, and percussion instruments. They learn to read sheet music, write musical notation, sing in tune, and hold simple harmony parts. They understand musical terminology, sing more complex music, and continue to use Orff instruments to accompany themselves while singing. Lastly, they continue to learn to sing with expression and perform in front of an audience.

Physical Education

In Physical Education, students experience the joy of movement while building skills that reflect our school's core values. Meeting four times each week, classes emphasize teamwork, leadership, and personal growth. Every student has the chance to step into a leadership role, practicing what it means to lead by example, follow directions, and support peers as positive teammates. Through a variety of activities, students not only develop new skills but also gain confidence while developing the muscles of diligence and resilience. Additionally, continuing at the fourth grade level, there is an advanced progression of complexity in gameplay, engaging the students' strategic mindset and further development of motor skills. *Back this year!* Fourth-grade students will participate in Presidential Fitness Testing in the Spring Semester.

Science

Fourth-grade students participate in a program called Project Lead the Way. The goal of this program is to engage young minds in science, technology, engineering, and math so that they will build confidence, explore interests, and set themselves up for success in middle school, high school, and beyond. The science curriculum taps into the students' natural curiosity and enthusiasm to empower them to become problem solvers. Students use structured approaches, like the engineering design process, and employ critical thinking. The units of study explore life, physical, and earth sciences. Students discover the design process and how engineers influence their lives. Units in fourth grade focus on the structure and function of organisms, the History of Earth, properties of light waves, and the conversion of energy.

Social Emotional Learning

Fourth-grade Social-Emotional Learning class uses the Studies Weekly Health and Wellness curriculum to increase children's self-awareness and to improve problem-solving. The class will focus on helping children with emotional literacy, improving self-esteem, social awareness (empathy), and fostering responsible decision-making. Through reflection, application, and collaboration, students will become more mindful and have the tools they need to overcome obstacles in and outside of school.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Weekly Studies program allows students to learn about the state of California. Students study California regions and national parks, native people (specifically the local Maidu tribe), the Spanish influence on native people, the California Mission system, the California Gold Rush, and the diverse immigration of many cultures to our state over a short period of time. The curriculum covers everything from important people in California history to geography and important dates in history.

Spanish

Students master the use of numbers in dates, math, and history in fourth-grade Spanish class. Students learn the basics of interrogative sentences by participating in answering simple questions and using their learned vocabulary for foods, classroom items, parts of the body, family, and home. Students practice daily greetings in everyday life. Students develop an elementary understanding of specific vocabulary for date and time. Students get the chance to practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing at an appropriate level.

Technology

Using their smeds.com Google account (a safe, school-contained account where only digital interaction can occur among peers and faculty), students will explore what Google Docs and Google Slides have to offer. They will unleash their digital creativity and voice as they compose documents and presentations that reinforce and reflect their learning of various features through application. Other projects within the core subjects will arise during the year, and students will learn the appropriate digital tools to facilitate the projects. Additionally, the responsible use of technology and internet safety will be a repeated point of emphasis with several lessons from commonsense.org specifically dedicated to the topic. Lastly, students will be expected to complete 30 minutes of typing homework every week. Their time will be logged and then signed on their typing sheet. The sheet is due every Tuesday at the beginning of Technology.