PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE TO GRADE

4

CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

EST. 1954

EVERY DAY COUNTS

WELCOME TO FOURTH GRADE

The Canon-McMillan School District believes in providing a well-rounded education that is strong in core academics: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. In addition, students are provided with engaging experiences in the areas of Art, Library, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Character Education.

The Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide provides a snapshot of the learning experiences students will engage in during the school year. To view each content area's curriculum, please visit the Curriculum and Instruction page on the District website.

In the core content areas, instruction is teacher-led and includes modeling, guided practice, and frequent opportunities for students to demonstrate their understanding. High-quality print materials; including student workbooks, readers, and journals are an essential component of daily instruction. Research shows that students learn best when they engage with printed materials. Using print materials leads to greater focus, deeper understanding, and stronger retention. In return, students are able to apply what they have learned with confidence and independence.

The mission of the Canon-McMillan School District, in partnership with the community, is to teach, to challenge, to motivate and to support all students to maximize their full individual potential.

CANON-McMILLAN
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BIG MACS
BIG
POSSIBILITIES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 4

In fourth grade, students shift from learning how to read to reading to learn through Amplify CKLA, a research-based knowledge building curriculum. Continuing with the strong foundation in structured literacy developed in primary grades, students read increasingly complex texts, expand their academic vocabulary, and write for a variety of purposes. Throughout the year, students explore engaging topics including the Middle Ages, geology, the American Revolution, inventions, poetry, and classic literature such as Treasure Island. Students analyze characters, themes, historical events, and scientific ideas as they read both fiction and nonfiction texts.

AMPLIFY CKLA GRADE 4

Personal Narratives: Students read and analyze personal narratives while learning how authors use descriptive details, dialogue, and reflection to share meaningful experiences while building historical knowledge and literacy skills.

Empires in the Middle Ages: Students explore the rise and fall of medieval civilizations, examining how geography, culture, religion, and leadership shaped societies across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Poetry: Students read a variety of poems, exploring figurative language, rhythm, structure, and theme.

Eureka! Student Inventor: Students investigate the invention process by reading about famous inventors and innovative ideas.

Geology: Students build knowledge about Earth's structure and the processes that shape our planet, including rocks, minerals, weathering, erosion, earthquakes, and volcanoes.

American Revolution: Students examine the causes, key events, and lasting impact of the American Revolution. Through historical texts, they explore the perspectives of different groups and the founding principles of the United States.

Treasure Island: Students read an adapted version of the classic adventure novel, analyzing characters, plot, theme, and conflict. The unit immerses students in an exciting tale of courage, loyalty, and adventure.

Learn more about each unit by viewing the Fourth Grade Amplify CKLA Curriculum Map.

GRADE 4 ELA QUICK FACTS

- ☑ 80 minutes of instruction daily
- ☑ Instruction is delivered in a structured, systematic approach that includes modeling and guided practice
- ☑ Units are intentionally sequenced to build students' knowledge in history, science, and the arts
- ☑ Students apply their knowledge to write multi-paragraph narrative, informative, and argumentative writings
- ☑ DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) given beginning- middle-, and end- of year to monitor students' reading development.

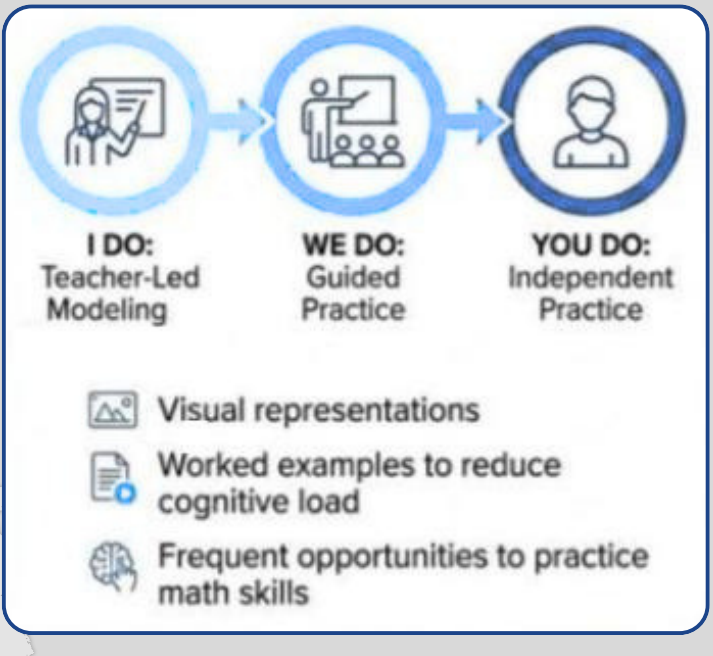


Students comprehend what they read more effectively when they have background knowledge, a core component of Amplify CKLA.

MATHEMATICS

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In fourth grade, enVision+ Mathematicshelps helps students deepen their understanding of numbers, operations, problem solving, and mathematical reasoning. Students continue to develop fluency with multiplication and division while expanding their ability to work with larger numbers, fractions, decimals, measurement, and geometry. They strengthen their understanding of place value, multi-digit multiplication and division, equivalent fractions, fraction operations, decimals, angles, and measurement. Through visual models, hands-on learning, and collaborative discussions, students build confidence and prepare for the increased complexity of mathematics in Intermediate school.



INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH

Using the **"I Do**, **We Do**, **You Do**" approach, teachers provide clear, direct instruction by modeling and explaining new concepts ("I Do"), guide students through supported practice ("We Do"), and then give students opportunities to apply their learning independently ("You Do").

This research-based approach ensures students receive the instruction, practice, and feedback needed to build mastery and become confident, independent learners.

ENVISION GRADE 4 TOPICS

TOPICS 1–5: Students build confidence solving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with multi-digit whole numbers using efficient strategies.

TOPICS 6–9: Students depen their understanding of fractions by finding equivalent fractions, adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions, and exploring the relationship between fractions and decimals.

TOPIC 10: Students learn to collect, organize, display, and interpret numerical data to answer questions and solve real-world problems.

TOPICS 11–12: Students explore customary and metric measurement, convert between units, and apply measurement skills to investigate and solve problems involving geometric figures.

GRADE 4 MATH FACTS

- 80 minutes of instruction daily
- Fluency practice with basic facts and computation
- Hands-on activities with math manipulatives
- Topics are sequenced to support mathematics progressions that connect new content to prior knowledge.

Learn more about each topic by visiting the Fourth Grade enVision+ Resource Page for families.

SCIENCE

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In fourth grade, students build on their understanding of life, physical, and Earth sciences by investigating real-world phenomena through the Amplify Science program. Students take on the role of scientists and engineers as they ask questions, gather evidence, analyze data, and develop explanations for how the natural world works. Throughout the year, students explore how energy can be transformed and used to solve problems, investigate how light affects living organisms, and examine Earth's changing landscapes through the study of rocks, fossils, and landforms.

AMPLIFY SCIENCE GRADE 4

Energy Conversions: Students investigate how energy is generated, converted, and transferred. They design a more reliable electrical system for a fictional town and use evidence to explain their engineering decisions.

Vision and Light: Students investigate how light affects the survival and behavior of living organisms. They explore how animals use light and vision to interact with their environment and explain why increased artificial light is impacting the gecko population.

Earth's Features: Students investigate fossils and rock layers. They use evidence to reconstruct past environments and explain how Earth's surface has changed over time.

Waves, Energy, and Information: Students explore how sound waves transfer energy and information. They investigate how dolphins communicate over long distances and apply their understanding of wave patterns to design communication systems.

Learn more about each unit by viewing the Fourth Grade Amplify Science Unit Maps.

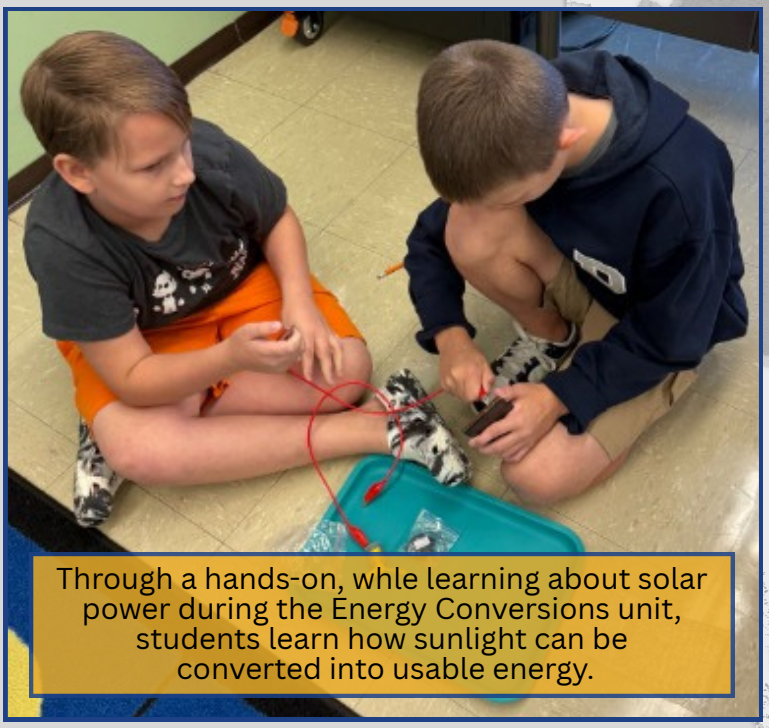
GRADE 4 SCIENCE FACTS

- 40 minutes of instruction daily
- Hands-on investigations, experiments, and simulations
- Collaborative discussions, reading, and writing opportunities to explain scientific ideas

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH



Amplify Science is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It is designed to help students move beyond simply learning scientific facts to investigating real-world phenomena by gathering evidence, developing explanations, and applying their learning to solve new problems.



Through a hands-on, whle learning about solar power during the Energy Conversions unit, students learn how sunlight can be converted into usable energy.

SOCIAL STUDIES 4

In fourth grade, students expand their understanding of the United States by exploring each of its regions through TCI's Social Studies Alive! Regions of Our Country. Throughout the year, students investigate how geography, history, economics, and civics shape the people, places, and cultures of the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West. Students will also take a closer look at Pennsylvnia's geography, history, economy, and government through a variety of engaging and interactive hands-on activities.

Regions of Our Country

Discoverig the Social Sciences: Students use the four social studies disciplines: history, geography, economics, and civics, to deepen their understanding of their region of the United States.

The Northeast: Students explore the Northeast region of the United States by learning about its geography, population, and communities.

The Southeast: Students learn about the Southeast region of the United States by learning about its geography, history, economics, and civics.

The Midwest: Students explore the Midwest through an interactive, self-guided tour where they solve a puzzle by collecting clues along the way.

The Southwest: Students explore the Southwest region by learning about its people, geography, and unique landscapes.

The West: Students explore the Western region through an interactive scavenger hunt and mystery investigation.

Studying Your State: Students explore Pennsylvania's geography, history, economy, and government through engaging, hands-on activities.

Learn more about each unit by visiting the Fourth Grade Social Studies Curriculum Map.

GRADE 4 SOCIAL STUDIES FACTS

- 80 minutes of instruction weekly
- Hands-on collaborative learning activities
- Visual learning with maps, timelines, charts, photographs

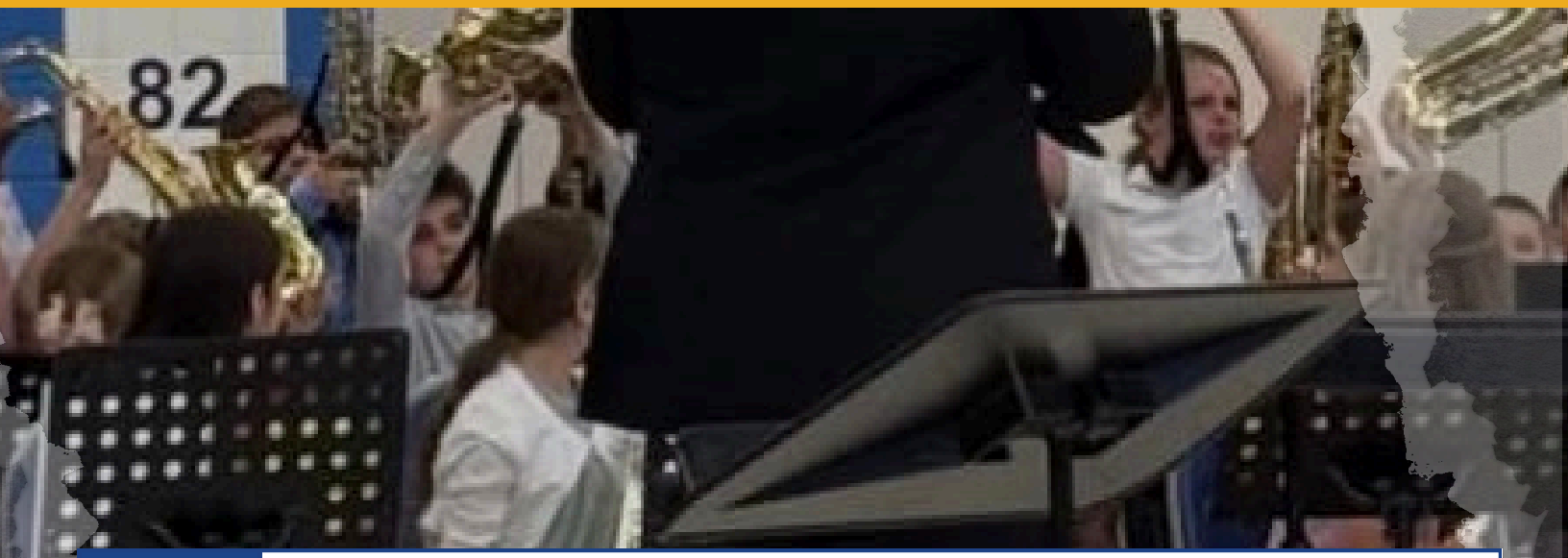


Students create a three-dimensional diorama to showcase life in the Southwest region. Their projects highlighted the area's unique landscapes, communities, and natural resources while demonstrating how geography influences the way people live, work, and play.

RELATED ARTS

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Related arts classes are an important part of every student's elementary school experience. Throughout the school year, students participate in Art, Music, Physical Education, Health, and Library, where they develop skills and interests that complement their core classroom learning. Students also participate in Character Education lessons taught by the school counselor. These classes encourage creativity, curiosity, collaboration, healthy decision-making, and personal responsibility while giving students opportunities to discover new talents, build confidence, and develop lifelong interests. The elementary related arts program supports the growth of the whole child by helping students become well-rounded learners.



ART

Students students apply a full range of artistic elements and principles to create organized, purposeful works of art using a variety of media including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, weaving, and mixed media. They explore how artists communicate ideas, emotions, and life experiences. Students analyze artistic intent, evaluate artworks using art vocabulary, and reflect on their own growth as artists through class discussion.

MUSIC

- Review and expand upon previous learning
- Sing unison and 2 part songs
- Create and improvise compositions
- Learning terminology and symbols and apply to written music
- Listen to many genres of music and evaluate
- Option to join chorus and band

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Develop fundamental movement skills and apply them across games, team sports, exploratory activities, and cooperative game units
- Describe and apply the principles of exercise to the components of health related and skill-related fitness through the FitnessGram program. (cardiorespiratory endurance, muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility, body composition)
- Practice throwing, catching, kicking and striking skills in dynamic game settings
- Build spacial awareness, agility, and reaction time through a variety of movement-based activities and games
- Develop teamwork and communication skills by working cooperatively

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LIBRARY

- Read and analyze tall tales, including identifying characters and exaggeration.
- Select library books based on personal interests and reading ability.
- Use the library catalog (Destiny OPAC) to locate books and resources.
- Explore award-winning children's literature, including Newbery and Coretta Scott King Award books.
- Apply basic internet safety skills while conducting research online.

HEALTH

- Understand/apply different strategies of positive mental mindset skills in athletics.
- Explain the relationship between health-related information and consumer choices with dietary guidelines/food selection
- Know and recognize changes in body responses during moderate to vigorous physical activity through heart rate and breathing rate.
- Identify the difference between Aerobic/Anaerobic fitness and how they relate to activity.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

- Develop self-awareness by identifying personal strengths, emotions, and values
- Strengthen communication and collaboration skills by practicing active listening, respectful conversations, teamwork, and conflict resolution.
- Build responsible decision-making skills by considering consequences, solving problems, and making safe, respectful, and ethical choices.
- Increase empathy and appreciation for others by recognizing different perspectives, celebrating diversity, and demonstrating kindness.
- Practice self-management strategies by setting goals.