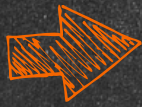


PORTRAIT OF A PANTHER:

Fourth Grade



Typical fourth-grade students are developing independence and academic confidence while still benefiting from structure, encouragement, and explicit instruction. They are capable of sustained effort and deeper thinking when supported appropriately.



Academic Expectations

Core Literacy Skills: Fourth-grade students read increasingly complex literary and informational texts with growing stamina and independence. They identify themes, summarize texts, analyze characters and events, and explain ideas using specific evidence. Students write multi-paragraph narratives, explanations, and opinions that are organized, elaborated, and supported with details. They apply grade-level grammar, spelling, and conventions and participate in collaborative discussions to clarify thinking and build understanding.

Core Math Skills: Learners develop fluency with multi-digit multiplication and division and deepen understanding of place value, as well as, fluency with basic multiplication and division facts. Students apply strategies to solve multi-step word problems and extend fraction understanding through equivalence, comparison, and basic operations. Mathematical reasoning and explanation of thinking using models and representations are emphasized.

Interdisciplinary Knowledge: In science and social studies, students build knowledge through reading, observation, inquiry, and discussion. They interpret information from texts, visuals, and data sources and begin to synthesize ideas across subjects. Students begin to build the basis of financial literacy.

Learning Behaviors: Students are expected to manage longer assignments, follow complex directions, and take greater responsibility for organization and completion of work. Perseverance, goal-setting, and use of feedback are developing skills that require explicit modeling and practice.



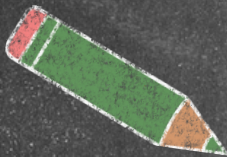
Social & Emotional Development

Self-Management: Fourth graders demonstrate increasing independence and awareness of expectations but may struggle with frustration or self-confidence when tasks become more challenging. Consistent routines and encouragement support emotional regulation.

Social Awareness: Peer relationships and a sense of fairness are highly important. Students are more attuned to social norms and may compare their performance to that of others.

Relationship Skills: Learners practice collaboration, respectful disagreement, and shared problem-solving. Adult guidance continues to support conflict resolution and positive group interactions.

Responsible Decision Making: Students are developing the ability to reflect on choices and outcomes, though they benefit from structured opportunities to discuss consequences and problem-solve.



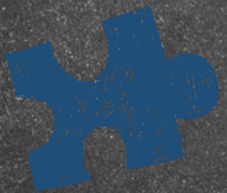
Physical Traits & Development

Gross Motor Skills: Coordination, balance, and strength continue to improve, supporting participation in physical education, recess, and extracurricular activities.

Fine Motor Skills: Fine motor control is well established, enabling increased writing stamina, legibility, and effective use of tools and technology.

Physical Growth Patterns: Growth is steady, though individual differences in size, strength, and endurance are common.

Stamina & Activity Levels: Students are capable of sustained focus but still benefit from movement breaks and varied pacing throughout the day.



Cognitive Milestones

Attention & Focus: Attention spans increase, allowing students to engage in extended tasks when learning is purposeful and structured.

Memory Development: Working memory supports multi-step problem solving, reading comprehension, and application of strategies across tasks.

Reasoning & Problem Solving: Students increasingly explain reasoning, recognize patterns, and apply learned strategies across contexts, though thinking remains primarily concrete.

Perspective Taking: Learners show growing ability to consider viewpoints beyond their own and to reflect on feedback from peers and adults.

Implications for Instruction & Support

- Provide explicit instruction paired with meaningful practice and application.
- Use clear routines, learning targets, and success criteria.
- Incorporate discussion, collaboration, and opportunities for student reflection.
- Offer scaffolding and feedback to build perseverance and confidence.
- Support social-emotional growth through relationship-building and consistent expectations.



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