



OFFICE OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS · AMPLIFY CKLA
- MATHEMATICS · ENVISION
- SCIENCE · SAVVAS ELEVATESCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES · MCGRAW HILL IMPACT
- ELECTIVES

About this guide: This document describes the instructional programs, standards, pacing, and expectations for all Fourth Grade students at Southfield Public Schools. It is intended to support teachers, families, and administrators in understanding what students learn and why.

CONTENTS

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Instructional Philosophy | 5. Mathematics — enVision | 9. Social-Emotional Learning |
| 2. English Language Arts — Amplify CKLA | 6. Science — SAVVAS elevateScience | 10. Assessment & Reporting |
| 3. The Science of Reading in Practice | 7. Social Studies — McGraw Hill IMPACT | 11. Family Partnership |
| 4. ELA Scope & Sequence Overview | 8. Electives | |

SECTION 1

Our Instructional Philosophy

Southfield Public Schools provides rigorous, joyful, and equitable instruction for every student. In Fourth Grade, students deepen their independence as readers, writers, and thinkers, tackling longer and more complex texts while building the stamina to research, analyze, and argue across every subject.

ALL STUDENTS CAN AND WILL READ

We use the Science of Reading to deliver explicit, systematic literacy instruction to every child. Amplify CKLA (Grades K–5) continues its integrated model in Fourth Grade, pairing longer, more complex texts with continued attention to foundational skills for students who need it.

CURIOSITY DRIVES SCIENCE LEARNING

Students learn by investigating real phenomena. SAVVAS elevateScience anchors every unit in a question worth investigating and builds authentic scientific thinking from day one.

KNOWLEDGE FUELS COMPREHENSION

Decoding alone is not enough. Students who build rich background knowledge across history, science, geography, and literature become stronger readers over time. Our programs deliberately build this foundation at every grade level.

SECTION 2

English Language Arts

• Amplify CKLA — Third Edition • Grades K–5

Southfield Public Schools has adopted *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), Third Edition* as the core ELA instructional program for *Grades K–5*. CKLA is among the nation's highest-rated literacy curricula for alignment to the Science of Reading and the Common Core State Standards.

INTEGRATED INSTRUCTION • DAILY

As in Third Grade, CKLA's Fourth Grade lessons integrate foundational skills, grammar, vocabulary, and morphology directly into rich, content-based reading and writing. Texts grow longer and more complex, and an Assessment and Remediation Guide provides targeted support for any student who enters the year with gaps in foundational skills.

Grade 4 ELA Learning Priorities

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS (RF.4)

- Use combined knowledge of letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology to read unfamiliar multisyllabic words
- Decode words with common Latin suffixes and Greek and Latin affixes and roots
- Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension (RF.4.4)

LANGUAGE (L.4)

- Use relative pronouns and relative adverbs
- Form and use the progressive verb tenses
- Use modal auxiliaries to convey various conditions
- Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns
- Use correct capitalization; use commas and quotation marks for direct speech and quotations from a text

READING LITERATURE & INFORMATIONAL (RL.4, RI.4)

- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges
- Describe a character, setting, or event in depth, drawing on specific details
- Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics across stories from different cultures
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text
- Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts based on specific information in a text
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably

WRITING (W.4)

- Write opinion pieces, supporting a point of view with reasons and information organized into related paragraphs
- Write informative/explanatory texts that group related information into paragraphs and sections, using headings and illustrations when useful
- Write narratives using dialogue, description, and clear event sequences, with transitional words and phrases
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic

Fourth Grade Knowledge Domains

Domain	Content Focus	Writing Connection
D1. Personal Narratives	Nonfiction works written by a first-person narrator; sequence, dialogue, and descriptive language	Write an original personal narrative using genre elements studied in the unit
D2. The American Revolution	Causes, major figures, and consequences of the American Revolution; the ideas and values that drove independence	Informative essay on a key figure or turning point of the Revolution
D3. Adventure Fiction: Treasure Island	A classic adventure novel; character development, setting, plot, and literary devices	Literary analysis: character motivation and change across the novel
D4. The Middle Ages	Life in medieval Europe; the feudal system, castles, knights, and the role of the Church	Informative paragraph comparing the life of a serf and a lord
D5. Poetry: Sound and Form	Figurative language, form, and meaning across poems from many time periods and cultures	Write and analyze original poems; compare two poems on a shared theme
D6. Eureka! Student Inventor	The engineering design process; how inventors identify problems and create evidence-based solutions	Informative and opinion writing about an original invention
D7. Human Body Systems	How the skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems work together; vision and how the brain processes stimuli	Informative essay on a body system or sense
D8. Earth's Changing Surface	Volcanic eruptions and other rapid changes; weathering and erosion as gradual processes	Compare-and-contrast writing: rapid vs. gradual changes to Earth's surface
D9. Sound, Light, and Energy	Properties of sound and light waves; energy transfer, storage, and forms	Informative writing explaining a sound, light, or energy phenomenon
D10. Westward Expansion	The growth of the United States in the 1800s; the experiences of those who moved west and those already there	Narrative or informative writing: a journey west or its impact on Native peoples

SECTION 3

The Science of Reading in Practice

The *Science of Reading* refers to decades of research from cognitive science, linguistics, and education defining how the brain learns to read. Amplify CKLA (K–5) is built on this research, providing structured literacy instruction that works for all learners.

1 Phonological Awareness Hear, blend, and segment sounds in spoken words	2 Phonics & Decoding Map sounds to spellings systematically	3 Fluency Read with accuracy, rate, and expression	4 Vocabulary Build word knowledge through wide reading and discussion	5 Comprehension Apply strategies to understand complex texts
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STRUCTURED LITERACY IN EVERY CLASSROOM

In Fourth Grade, CKLA lessons combine close reading of complex literature and informational texts with continued grammar, morphology, and writing instruction. A Decoding and Encoding Remediation Supplement provides additional foundational skills support for any student who needs it. End-of-unit assessments guide differentiation and intervention at all grade levels K–5.

SECTION 5

Mathematics

• enVision Mathematics • Grades K–5

Southfield uses *enVision Mathematics* for Grades K–5. In Fourth Grade, students deepen their understanding of multiplication and division through factors, multiples, and multiplicative comparison, and they use multi-digit arithmetic to solve increasingly complex problems. Work with fractions extends into decimal notation, and students develop the concept of angle measurement. Each lesson opens with a problem-based *Solve & Share* task that builds conceptual understanding.

OPERATIONS & ALGEBRAIC THINKING (4.OA)

- Interpret multiplication equations as comparisons; solve multi-step word problems
- Find all factor pairs for a number; determine whether a number is prime or composite
- Generate and analyze a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule

NUMBER & OPERATIONS IN BASE TEN (4.NBT)

- Recognize that a digit represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right
- Read, write, and compare multi-digit whole numbers using place value
- Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers using strategies and properties of operations

NUMBER & OPERATIONS — FRACTIONS (4.NF)

- Explain why a fraction is equivalent to

MEASUREMENT & DATA (4.MD)

- Know relative sizes of measurement units

another fraction; compare fractions

- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators; multiply a fraction by a whole number
- Understand decimal notation for fractions; compare decimals to hundredths

and convert within a single system

- Apply area and perimeter formulas for rectangles to solve real-world problems
- Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit
- Understand angle measure and measure angles using a protractor

GEOMETRY (4.G)

- Draw and identify points, lines, rays, angles, and perpendicular and parallel lines
- Classify two-dimensional shapes based on the presence of angles and lines
- Recognize and identify lines of symmetry in two-dimensional shapes

Quarterly Pacing Overview

	Months	Topic Focus
Quarter 1	September – October	Generalize place value understanding; fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers; use strategies and properties to multiply by one-digit numbers and multiples of 10, 100, and 1,000
Quarter 2	November – January	Use strategies and properties to divide by one-digit numbers; solve problems with whole number operations; identify factors, multiples, prime and composite numbers; extend fraction equivalence and ordering
Quarter 3	January – March	Understand addition and subtraction of fractions; extend multiplication concepts to fractions; represent and interpret data on line plots; understand and compare decimals
Quarter 4	April – June	Find equivalence in units of measure; generate and analyze numeric patterns; understand concepts of angles and angle measurement; classify lines, angles, and shapes

SECTION 6

Science

• SAVVAS elevateScience • Grades K–5

Southfield has adopted SAVVAS *elevateScience* for Grades K–5. In Fourth Grade, students investigate increasingly complex phenomena and develop stronger science and engineering practices. All units are aligned to the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

The key science concepts students need to know

Science & Engineering Practices

How scientists investigate and engineers design

Crosscutting Concepts

Ideas that apply across all science disciplines

Fourth Grade Science Units

Unit & Focus	Phenomenon & Key Questions	Core Concepts
Unit 1: Human Body, Vision, and the Brain	How do our bones, muscles, eyes, and brain work together?	Bones and muscles are interconnected; eyes interact with light to create vision; the brain responds to stimuli in the environment
Unit 2: Earth's Features and Processes	How do volcanic eruptions compare to weathering and erosion?	Volcanic eruptions are rapid processes that change Earth's surface; weathering and erosion are gradual; engineering solutions can mitigate impacts on humans
Unit 3: Sound, Waves, and Communication	How do waves let us communicate across distances?	Vibrations allow us to communicate; sound waves have measurable characteristics that affect what we hear
Unit 4: Energy, Energy Transfer, and Electricity	How is energy stored, transferred, and transformed?	Energy can make objects move; collisions transfer energy; devices convert energy from one form to another, such as heat into motion or electricity into light

NGSS STANDARDS ADDRESSED

Fourth Grade science units are aligned to 4-LS1 and 4-PS4 (Human Body, Vision, and the Brain), 4-ESS1, 4-ESS2, and 4-ESS3 (Earth's Features and Processes), 4-PS4 (Sound, Waves, and Communication), 4-PS3 and 4-ESS3 (Energy, Energy Transfer, and Electricity), and 3-5-ETS1 (Engineering Design).

SECTION 7

Social Studies

● McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies • Grades K–5

Southfield uses *McGraw Hill IMPACT Social Studies* for Grades K–5. In Fourth Grade, students widen their lens from Michigan alone to compare their state with the major geographic regions of the United States. IMPACT uses an inquiry-based approach anchored in compelling questions, primary sources, and evidence-based discussion.

GRADE FOUR FOCUS OF STUDY — UNITED STATES STUDIES

In Grade Four, students extend their application of previously learned social studies concepts as they compare Michigan with the major geographic regions of the United States. Through these comparisons, they deepen their understanding of how events, geography, and economy can influence people and places. Using examples from Michigan's past, they learn about Michigan's role in the development of the country, and the role played by other U.S. states and regions.

Fourth Grade Social Studies — Units

Unit	Focus
Unit 1	Michigan and the Nation — comparing Michigan to the major geographic regions of the United States
Unit 2	Post-Statehood Michigan History — Michigan's development and role in the growth of the country
Unit 3	Michigan's Government — structure and function of state government; rights and responsibilities of citizenship
Unit 4	Michigan's Economy — how geography and natural resources shape Michigan's place in the national economy
Unit 5	People and Places of the United States — how geography, history, and economy shape regions across the country
Unit 6	Civic Participation — investigating a public issue affecting the United States and developing a plan to inform or act

INQUIRY PROCESS (C3 FRAMEWORK)

- Construct compelling questions
- Gather and evaluate sources
- Develop claims with evidence
- Communicate and take action

KEY STANDARDS (MICHIGAN GLCE)

All IMPACT units are aligned to Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies, with a Fourth Grade focus on United States studies, geography, civics, and economics.

SECTION 8

Electives

Elective offerings at Southfield Public Schools depend on the individual school building. Fourth Grade students may have access to one or more of the following enrichment and specialty areas. Please contact your child's school directly for the specific elective schedule at your building.

WORLD LANGUAGE — SPANISH

Continued conversational vocabulary and listening and speaking skills, with growing fluency in reading and writing in Spanish. Students explore Latin American cultures through songs, games, and stories.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Continued development of motor skills, teamwork, and strategy in games. Students build habits of physical wellness aligned to Michigan Health Education Standards.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — DANCE

Creative movement, rhythmic awareness, and expressive dance forms, with growing attention to choreography and group composition.

TECHNOLOGY

Growing digital literacy including typing fluency, responsible technology use, and continued coding concepts, aligned with ISTE Standards for Students.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS — MUSIC

Continued music literacy including rhythm, melody, and dynamics, with growing fluency reading notation, aligned to Michigan Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

NOTE TO FAMILIES

Elective schedules are determined at the building level and are subject to change. Contact your school's main office for the most current information about elective offerings and scheduling for your child.

SECTION 9

Social-Emotional Learning

Southfield Public Schools integrates social-emotional learning (SEL) throughout the school day. Fourth Grade students develop competencies aligned to the *CASEL framework*: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. SEL is embedded in daily routines, morning meetings, and subject-area instruction.

FOURTH GRADE SEL FOCUS AREAS

- Recognizing how emotions influence decisions, behavior, and relationships
- Strengthening collaborative problem-solving and constructive conflict resolution in group work
- Practicing perspective-taking across historical events and diverse cultures studied in class
- Building resilience and a growth mindset around increasingly challenging academic tasks
- Taking ownership of personal responsibilities and contributing to a positive classroom community

INTEGRATION ACROSS SUBJECTS

CKLA Knowledge domains — including the American Revolution, the Middle Ages, and Eureka! Student Inventor — provide rich opportunities to explore themes of courage, fairness, perseverance, and innovation. Teachers intentionally connect SEL competencies to literature and content across the Fourth Grade year.

SECTION 10

Assessment & Reporting

Southfield Public Schools uses multiple forms of assessment to monitor student progress and guide instruction. Assessment data informs differentiation, intervention decisions, and communication with families.

Assessment Type	Program/Tool	Frequency	Purpose
ELA Skills Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each unit	Monitor foundational skills mastery; identify students needing support or enrichment
ELA Knowledge Assessment	Amplify CKLA	End of each domain	Assess vocabulary and comprehension; inform re-teaching decisions
Math Unit Assessments	enVision	End of each topic/unit	Measure mastery of CCSS-M standards; guide grouping and intervention
Science Performance Tasks	SAVVAS elevateScience	End of each unit	Evaluate NGSS science and engineering practices through authentic tasks
Social Studies Assessments	McGraw Hill IMPACT	End of each unit	Check understanding of United States studies, geography, civics, and economics concepts
Progress Reports	Southfield SIS	4 times/year (quarterly)	Communicate student performance across all subject areas to families
Reading Fluency Check	CKLA / Teacher observation	Ongoing	Monitor reading accuracy, rate, and expression; flag for early intervention
State Assessments	Michigan M-STEP	Spring	Measure grade-level proficiency in ELA, mathematics, and science

CONTINUED LITERACY SUPPORT

Fourth Grade builds on the early literacy screening conducted in Grades K–3 under Michigan's Read by Third Grade Law. Students who continue to need foundational skills support receive targeted intervention through our tiered support system, alongside grade-level instruction in complex texts.

SECTION 11

Family Partnership

Families are essential partners in student success. Here are meaningful ways to support your Fourth Grader at home:

SUPPORTING ELA (CKLA) AT HOME

- Read together daily — ask your Fourth Grader to read aloud from school books
- Discuss story characters and events:
“Why did the character make that

SUPPORTING SCIENCE AT HOME

- Talk about how sound travels — “Why does your voice sound different in a tunnel?”
- Look for signs of weathering and erosion

choice?”

- Connect Knowledge topics to real life: talk about the American Revolution, the Middle Ages, or inventions
- Visit amplify.com/caregiver-hub/amplify-ckla for family resources

SUPPORTING MATHEMATICS AT HOME

- Practice multi-digit multiplication and division through games and daily routines
- Look for angles around the house — estimate and then measure with a protractor
- Practice comparing fractions and decimals using money or recipes

on a walk together

- Talk about energy: where does the energy for a lamp or a toy come from?

STAYING CONNECTED

- Review quarterly progress reports and reach out with questions
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in fall and spring
- Contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or want to celebrate successes

CURRICULUM CONTACTS

For questions about Fourth Grade curriculum, instructional programs, or assessment, please contact the *Southfield Public Schools Office of Curriculum & Instruction*. Your child's classroom teacher is always your first point of contact for questions about your child's specific progress and learning.



SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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