

4th Grade Newsletter

Week of 8/31- 9/4

What we are learning:

Math: Add & Subtract Multidigit Whole Numbers

Science: Properties of Matter

Social Studies: Texas Culture

Elar: Analyzing Literary Elements

Writing: Narrative Writing

Important Dates:

9/2 Math homework due

9/4 KDE Pep Rally

9/7 No School!

Important Times:

11:40 - 12:10 Lunch

12:10 - 12:40 Recess

12:45 Switch

Reminders:

- Please enroll in the KISD Elementary C&I parent portal: [click here](#)

TOPIC 2

Add and Subtract Multi-Digit Whole Numbers

OVERVIEW

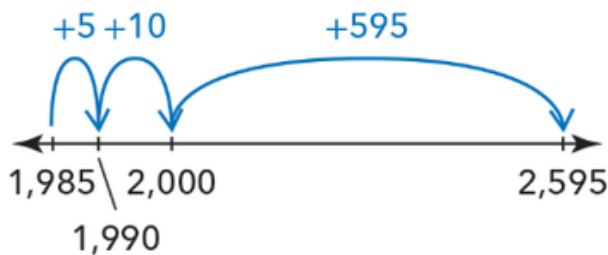
Topic 2 builds on your child's knowledge of place value, addition and subtraction of whole numbers, mental math, and estimation. Your child will apply strategies, properties, and procedural skill to add and subtract larger numbers. Your child will also solve one- and two- step word problems that require addition and subtraction.

STRATEGIES AND PROPERTIES

Use Mental Math to Add and Subtract Your child will use different strategies to mentally find sums and differences. Strategies include counting up, counting down, and compensation.

Here are two ways your child could find $2,595 - 1,985$.

Use a number line to count up from 1,985.



Find how much you counted up: $5 + 10 + 595 = 610$.
So, $2,595 - 1,985 = 610$.

Use compensation, which makes a computation easier but does not change the answer to an addition or subtraction problem. Add the same amount to both numbers to make this subtraction easier.

$$\begin{aligned} 2,595 - 1,985 \\ &= (2,595 + 15) - (1,985 + 15) \\ &= 2,610 - 2,000 \\ &= 610 \end{aligned}$$

Math & Science

Our Math & Science Padlet has additional resources for students & parents to use at home! We will upload copies of reviews once we send them home! They will be updated throughout the year, so please check back!

The Science Padlet also has our unit vocabulary words uploaded!

Math Padlet

Math
Homework

Letter to Home

Chapter: Properties of Matter

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Our class is learning how to classify and describe the physical properties of matter. Over the course of this chapter, students will have the opportunity to:

- **4.6A:** Classify and describe matter using observable physical properties, including temperature, mass, magnetism, density (the ability to sink or float in water), and physical state (solid, liquid, gas).

Thank you for your continued interest and involvement in your child's schoolwork. I hope this letter helps you stay informed about what your child is studying. If you are looking for a way to connect with your child about their school day, use the conversation starters. You can continue to explore this subject by completing the following family activity. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Science Padlet

ELA

Orient Myself to the Text!

- What genre is this?
- What do I know about fiction?
- How do fiction stories usually go?
- What do readers pay attention to when reading fiction?

THE STORY MOUNTAIN

Great readers remember how a story goes.

2. RISING ACTION

- Events happen
- Problem grows

1. BEGINNING

- Characters introduced
- Setting introduced
- Problem begins



HEART OF THE STORY

- Most important moment
- A realization happens
- A character begins to change

4. FALLING ACTION

- Problem starts getting solved

5. RESOLUTION

- Problem solved
- Story ends

Stories are not just a collection of events.
Strong stories build toward change.

Let's Read the Blurb!

Look For...

- Character** - Who is the story about?
- Setting** - Where might the story take place?
- Conflict** - What problem might happen?
- Theme** - What lesson or message might the story teach?

Think...

- What do I already know about fiction?
- What clues did the author give me?
- What do I predict this story will be about?

Use the notebook lines!

- Write in bullets
- Keep ideas organized
- Leave room to add thinking

Character Traits

Words that describe and help us understand a character.



- respectful
- responsible
- cooperative
- creative
- imagination
- loving
- bossy
- shy
- athletic
- smart
- nice
- caring
- kind
- friendly
- talented
- funny
- playful
- thankful

Writing

4th Grade

GENERATE STRONG STORY IDEAS

Writers collect true-story memories and choose one small moment worth telling.

1. COLLECT

What true-story memories could I write about?

I remember when...

2. ZOOM IN

What is the one small moment?

The moment when...

3. THINK DEEPLY

Why is this story worth telling?

This story matters because...

4. CHOOSE

Which story do I most want to write?

I will tell the story of...

WRITERS GET IDEAS BY...

remembering strong feelings	thinking about a time something changed	remembering a trouble story
thinking about proud moments	thinking about people who matter	remembering a moment they will never forget

WRITERS ASK...

Who will enjoy this story, and why is it worth telling?

Strong stories begin with one meaningful moment.

FLASH DRAFTERS REMEMBER:

- Tell the story.
- Picture it like a movie.
- Show what the character is thinking and feeling.
- Help readers understand what happened and why it matters.
- Don't stop to edit.
- Don't erase.

Social Studies

Texas Culture

WEEK 30



Texas

4 Studies Weekly

OUR STATE

What is Culture?

Culture is the beliefs, traditions, and celebrations of a group of people. There are many different characteristics of culture. People with the same culture share traditions and celebrate holidays in similar ways. Governments can also influence culture.

Cultural communities express their heritage through art, stories, music, clothing, and food. They often practice

the same religion and speak the same language. They create places that protect their cultural heritage and preserve their traditions. Museums and religious centers are examples.

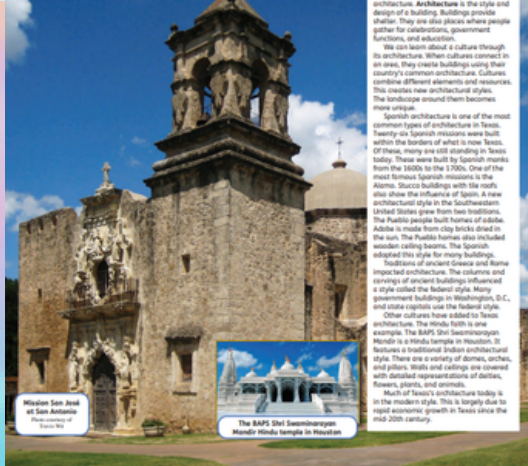
People bring their culture with them when they move from one place to another. Elements of different cultures often combine to create new traditions. People come together because they share

the same interests and cultures. At the same time, we celebrate the differences within and between our cultures.

Today, many people belong to more than one culture. Their heritage represents the beliefs and traditions of various cultural groups. We often describe the human characteristics of places and regions by their cultural traits.



Architecture



Mission San José at San Antonio
Photo: 1911

The BAPS Sri Swaminarayan Mandir Hindu temple in Houston

One of the many ways people can express and preserve their culture is through architecture. Architecture is the style and design of a building. Buildings provide shelter. They are also places where people gather for celebrations, government functions, and education.

We can learn about a culture through its architecture. When cultures connect in one area, they create buildings using their country's common architecture. Cultures combine different elements and resources. This creates new architectural styles. The landscape around them becomes more unique.

Spanish architecture is one of the most common types of architecture in Texas. Twenty-six Spanish missions were built within the borders of what is now Texas. Of these, many are still standing in Texas today. These were built by Spanish monks from the 16th to the 17th century. One of the most famous Spanish missions is the Alamo. These buildings were built in the style of the 16th and 17th centuries. A new architectural style in the southwestern United States grew from these traditions. The Pueblo people built homes of adobe. Adobe is made from city bricks dried in the sun. The Pueblo homes also included rounded, curved roofs. The Spanish adopted this style for many buildings.

Buildings of ancient Greece and Rome impacted architecture. The columns and carvings of ancient buildings influenced a style called the federal style. Many government buildings in Washington, D.C., and state capitals use the federal style. Other cultures have added to Texas architecture. The Hindu faith is one example. The BAPS Sri Swaminarayan Mandir is a temple in Houston. It features a traditional Indian architectural style. There are a variety of domes, arches, and pillars. Walls and ceilings are covered with colorful representations of deities, flowers, plants, and animals.

Much of Texas architecture today is in the modern style. This is largely due to rapid economic growth in Texas since the mid-20th century.

Arts and Literature

We can learn about a culture by studying its art and literature. Artists are important to communities. They help us understand culture through art and creative celebrations. Their artwork expresses the traditions of different people. Artists help us learn about how different cultures live, work, and think. Sculptures, photographs, paintings, and murals reflect the life of a culture. Artists show the images they see around them. They make images of people, places, traditions, and celebrations from their culture or other cultures. This allows people from around the world to study the culture of different places.

Literature includes the stories people write and share. Reading, telling, and listening to stories lets people express their ideas and beliefs. Stories, like folk tales, myths, and legends, are important to many cultures. These are passed from one generation to another. Shared stories become part of a community's culture. Authors use elements from their own culture in their writings. Stories allow people from around the world to experience different cultural ideas.

Artists' and authors' works continue to shape and change our communities' cultural heritage. Spanish and Mexican culture has had a big impact on Texas art and literature. Mexican influence can be seen in many early Texas murals. Murals are large paintings. They are often painted on public buildings. Mexican artists blend traditional colors into their modern works.

The earliest known written record about Texas was written by explorer Alonso Núñez Cabeza de Vaca. It was titled "La Relación." It was written in Spanish. The record describes Cabeza de Vaca's experiences in the Texas area in the 1500s. One of the first English books about Texas was written in 1832. It was a book titled "Early Times in Texas." The book was written by John Smith. It describes Smith's experiences in Texas during the Civil War. He later wrote fictional books that were based in Texas. Some considered him the father of Texas literature.

Musical is also a form of art. Music is an important part of Texas culture. Many styles of music that are popular in Texas were influenced by Spanish, Mexican, and Latin American music. Tejano, country, and blues music are strong examples. Texas artists helped to popularize this music in other parts of North and South America.



The Flower Center by Diego Rivera, 1933

Religion and Beliefs

Religion is another important part of culture. Religion is a system of beliefs that a group shares. There are many different religious beliefs practiced around the world. Some of these are Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Christianity.

People from different cultures have different religious beliefs. Religion influences culture. Many celebrations and traditions come from a culture's group's beliefs or religion. The food we eat, the way we dress, and where we live can also be influenced by religion.

Christianity has the largest presence of any religion in the state of Texas. Seventy-seven percent of the population belongs to Christian sects. Catholicism was one of the first sects in Texas. This was largely due to early Spanish monks. They built missions and spread their beliefs. They wanted to convert American Indian tribes and early European settlers who came to Texas. A wave of Protestantism spread in the early 1800s.

Protestantism spread as more and more settlers moved to Texas. Today, people from various parts of Asia, such as India and China, have immigrated to Texas. This has led to an increase in the number of people who practice religions such as Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.



An event at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas
Photo courtesy of David Long

Food

Food is an important element of culture. The food people eat is often based on the natural resources around them. People who live near the ocean tend to eat more fish than people living inland. The climate also dictates what grows well. This is why people around the world eat differently. Common foods in East and Southeast Asia include rice and fish. Europeans eat more wheat and potatoes. Areas with large grasslands rely heavily on farming. People who live there often raise cattle for food. People in different parts of the world also flavor their foods with different spices.

Food can also play an important role in cultural celebrations and holidays. People use special ingredients and recipes to prepare important meals. Many cultures use specific foods for eating and cooking. This helps maintain cultural traditions. When people move to new places, they bring their recipes and food traditions with them. This allows people to enjoy new dishes and types of food.

One type of cuisine you may be familiar with that is unique to Texas is called Tex-Mex. Much of the food in Texas has a Tex-Mex style. This type of cooking is a blend of Mexican, Spanish, and American Indian styles. Many families in Texas enjoy the spicy foods of Hispanic heritage.



Examples of modern Tex-Mex dishes and ingredients: corn, tortillas, chiles, cheese, Texas, salsa, chiles, and beef dishes

Clothing

The way people dress can be affected by the environments they live in. People use different resources to make clothing. These resources can be found where they live. Grasses, palm fronds, peapods, and cloth made from tree bark are some things people use to make clothes. Color dye for cloth is made from local plants. People in tropical and dry climates wear lightweight clothing to keep cool. Those in a continental or polar climate need heavier clothing to stay warm.

Clothing also reflects a community's cultural beliefs and traditions. Many cultures and religious groups wear clothing that reflects their beliefs and history. They use materials from the environment to make traditional clothing.

Many of the hats and clothing used by today's cowboys come from Mexican vaqueros. The words "chaps" and "poncho" first came from the Spanish language. Cowboy hats were first created in 1865 by John B. Stetson.



A Mexican Vaquero painting by Frederic Remington, 1875



John B. Stetson

A Stetson Cowboy hat from 1930

Brown leather cowboy boot
Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Schedules



4th Grade TEAM (7) *Ali Split						
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Art	Alston (Ali)	Churchwell (Ali)	Barnett (Ali)	Miller (Ali)	Neel (Ali)	Sladic (Ali)
Library	Barnett (Ali)	Miller (Ali)	Neel (Ali)	Sladic (Ali)	Alston (Ali)	Churchwell (Ali)
Music	Neel (Ali)	Sladic (Ali)	Alston (Ali)	Churchwell (Ali)	Barnett (Ali)	Miller (Ali)
PE	Churchwell (Ali)	Barnett (Ali)	Miller (Ali)	Neel (Ali)	Sladic (Ali)	Alston (Ali)
PE	Miller (Ali)	Neel (Ali)	Sladic (Ali)	Alston (Ali)	Churchwell (Ali)	Barnett (Ali)
PE	Sladic (Ali)	Alston (Ali)	Churchwell (Ali)	Barnett (Ali)	Miller (Ali)	Neel (Ali)

Student Calendar

AUGUST 2026

**WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31					01
02	03 PRE K ORIENTATION	04	05	06	07	08
09	10 Math TEACHER 3:00PM - 5:00PM	11	12 HAPPY 1st DAY OF SCHOOL 8:15AM - 8:45AM	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 NEW TO KDE GAMES DURING LUNCH	20	21 PTA BOARD MEETING 8:45 AM	22
23	24 CHOIR SIGNUP OPENS 4TH & 5TH GRADE	25	26	27 BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT SESSIONS 4:30 TO 5:15 PM 5:30 TO 6:15 PM	28	29

SEPTEMBER

2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 SOCCER STARS OF KATY	2	3	4 KDE PEP RALLY	5	6
7 NO SCHOOL LABOR DAY	8 SOCCER STARS OF KATY CHOIR SIGN UP CLOSING GENERAL MEETING AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION BOOK FAIR FAMILY NIGHT	9 BOOK FAIR	10 CHOIR PARENT MEETING BOOK FAIR	11 Book Fair DEADLINE FOR RDR APPLICATIONS	12	13
14 BOOSTERTHON KICKOFF DURING SPECIALS LUNCH VISITOR START	15 CHOIR SOCCER STARS OF KATY	16	17 Cook learn grow a learning activity for kids CHOIR	18	19	20
21 WDD START CHESS	22 CHOIR SOCCER STARS OF KATY RDR	23	24 CHOIR Cook learn grow a learning activity for kids	25 GLOW RUN	26	27
28 CHESS	29 SOCCER STARS OF KATY	30				

Gifted & Talented



Dear Parents of Students in Grades 1-4:

The district's Gifted and Talented screening opportunity for students in grades 1-4 is open. Your digital signature on the Parent Checklist begins the screening process. It also gives the district permission to test your child and provide services through our "Challenge" program if he/she is identified. Challenge is a rigorous pull-out enrichment program for one day a week that is designed to meet the instructional needs of the gifted. Children identified will miss 20% of instructional time in their regular classroom weekly. Challenge focuses on three high interest units each year, and students who participate will demonstrate self-directed learning, thinking, research, problem solving, and communication skills.

A parent awareness session about screening and GT services will be held online **October 1, 2026**. The TEAMS meeting link will be posted on the [Katy ISD GT/Advanced Academics website](https://www.katyisd.org/gt) along with more information about the screening process.

If you would like to refer your child to be screened for GT services, complete and submit the electronic "Grades 1-4 Parent Checklist" by **October 7, 2026**. You can access the electronic parent checklist through your *Parent My Katy* at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/katyisd> or scan this QR code:



Log in with your parent username and password. Then type "Gifted" in the search bar, and the tile will appear.

Checklists will NOT be accepted after October 7, 2026.

Testing will take place on campus over the course of several days during the months of November-April since multiple measures are required by the Texas Education Agency. Placement decisions for referred students will be sent to parents electronically through the My Katy parent portal at the end of the school year. Identified students will enter the program in the fall of 2027. Parents must exercise great care in determining the appropriate placement for young children. Please note that a bright child is not necessarily a gifted child. As you decide whether or not to refer your child, please consider the attached chart, "High Achieving and Gifted Learners."

Students screened as transfers this fall are not eligible to be screened again during this testing window since students may only be screened once per year. They may be referred again at the beginning of the 2027-28 school year.

If you have questions, please contact the Challenge teacher at your child's campus.

Director of Gifted/Talented and Advanced Academic Studies



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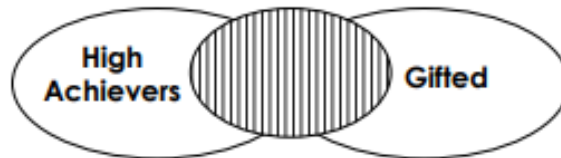
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Gifted & Talented

High Achieving and Gifted Learners - Characteristics and Behaviors -



High Achievers

- Knows the answer
- Is receptive to new ideas
- Is interested in Learning
- Copies accurately
- Is attentive in class
- Enjoys school
- "Loves the teacher"
- Absorbs information
- Has good ideas
- Is a technician of ideas
- Answers the questions
- Good memorizer
- Loves to memorize
- Completes assignments
- Enjoys a straightforward, sequential presentation
- Works hard
- Is alert
- A top group student
- Is pleased with his/her own learning
- Listens with interest
- Likes an authority to be in charge
- Loves rules
- Learns with ease
- Learns easily at the knowledge and comprehension level
- 6-8 repetitions for mastery
- Wants the "rules" of the assignment spelled out
- "What do I need to do to get an A?"
- Understands ideas
- Grasps the meaning
- Is focused on the destination or end product

Gifted Learners

- Asks the questions
- Is intense about ideas
- Is highly curious
- Creates a new design or way of doing it
- Is mentally and physically involved
- Enjoys learning
- Loves ideas
- Manipulates information
- Has wild, silly ideas
- Is an inventor of ideas
- Discusses in detail, elaborates
- Good, informed guesser
- Loves to think and ponder
- Initiates projects
- Thrives on complexity
- Loves ambiguity
- Plays around, yet tests well
- Is keenly observant
- Is beyond the group
- Is highly self-critical
- Shows strong feelings and opinions
- Has own idea for how it should be done
- Wants only basic guidelines
- Already knows
- Sees relationships and combines ideas
- Sees the whole picture
- 1-2 repetitions for mastery
- "I want to do it my way."
- Has a better way to do it
- "What is the purpose of this assignment?"
- Constructs abstractions
- Prefers older students or adults
- Draws inferences
- Is focused on the "Journey"

Purposefull People



Kindness KICKOFF

Family Connection

PurposeFull
People

Welcome!

Dear Family,

We are excited to tell you that we will be using **PurposeFull People** this year, a program that teaches skills to help students be successful in school and in life.

We believe that students should have safe, predictable places to learn where they feel included. Students should have healthy and helpful connections with teachers and classmates. They should also experience learning that will help them tackle challenges inside and outside of school. PurposeFull People is more than a set of lessons - it is a partnership between schools and families to create a place where students feel like they belong and learn skills that will help them be the best they can be!

The path forward is full of growth! We cannot wait to partner with you in this work...

- To teach students how to build strong friendships
- To work together to solve problems, big and small
- To grow skills for life
- To become PurposeFull People

Conversation Starters



- What does Kindness mean to you?
- What is something Kind you did for someone else today?

Kindness Overview

Our world needs more Kindness! That's why Kindness is how we are starting the school year. Our definition of Kindness is acting with understanding, generosity, and care. You'll hear a lot about Kindness this year because it is also 1 of our **3 outcomes**:

- **Be Kind:** Teaching social skills like listening, friendship, solving conflicts, and leadership. These skills are taught alongside **Empathy, Respect, & Cooperation**
- **Be Strong:** Skills that help students focus, stay organized, and set goals. These skills are taught alongside **Responsibility, Courage, & Perseverance**
- **Be Well:** Skills that help students handle their emotions and deal with stress. These skills are taught alongside **Gratitude, Honesty, & Creativity**

YOU CAN ALWAYS
ALWAYS
GIVE SOMETHING
even if
IT IS **ONLY**
KINDNESS

• ANNE FRANK •

Character & Strong