WILLIAMSVILLE
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Est. 1893

GRADE 4

OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS

New York State learning standards outline what students should know and be able to do by the end of fourth grade while continuing to develop critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and independence. During fourth grade, students strengthen foundational skills and apply them to increasingly complex learning experiences across all subject areas. The skills identified below represent a consolidated list of the most important grade-level learning priorities. They are not intended to represent a comprehensive list of all standards or content taught during fourth grade. Instruction encompasses the full range of New York State grade-level standards across all subject areas.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

- Determine central themes and main ideas across varying genres and draw inferences and support them with specific quotes from the text.
- Analyze text structure to see how a book is organized by time (chronology) or by cause and effect.
- Compare firsthand accounts (eyewitnesses) with secondhand accounts (researchers).
- Engage in rigorous writing cycles of planning, drafting, revising, and editing.
- Write opinion pieces with clear reasons, informational texts using technical vocabulary, and narratives that use dialogue to move the story forward.
- Conduct research projects to build knowledge and organize information from multiple sources.
- Master relative pronouns (who, whose, which), progressive verb tenses (was walking, is walking) and prepositional phrases.
- Apply morphology learning of roots like arch (ruler), graph (write), and rupt (break) and affixes to decode and determine the meaning of complex multisyllabic academic words.

MATH

- Read, write, compare, and round whole numbers through 1,000,000 using place value.
- Apply efficient strategies and algorithms to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers.
- Solve multi-step real-world problems using all four operations and mathematical reasoning.
- Compare, generate equivalent, add, subtract, and multiply fractions, and relate fractions to decimals.
- Classify geometric figures, measure angles, and solve problems involving area and perimeter.
- Interpret line plots and use measurement and data to solve increasingly complex problems.



SCIENCE

- Investigate how energy transfers between objects through heat, sound, light, and electricity, and test ways to convert energy from one form to another.
- Demonstrate how wave patterns describe energy movement (wavelength and amplitude) and how coded patterns can be used to transmit information.
- Analyze how internal and external structures in plants and animals support survival, growth, behavior, and sensory perception.
- Examine rock layers, fossils, and landscape features to gather evidence about how weathering, erosion, and Earth processes shape the land over time.
- Assess renewable and nonrenewable energy resources and design engineering solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth hazards on human communities.

SCREENING

- Grade-level assessments are designed to measure student progress, guide instruction, and ensure students receive the appropriate resources and support to meet grade-level expectations.
- Reading: The Aimsweb Universal Screener is utilized three times per year to assess each of the following: silent reading fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension.
- Math: The Aimsweb Concepts and Applications (M-CAP) test is a brief, standardized assessment measuring general math understanding, higher-order thinking, and multi-step problem solving for grades 2 through 8.

STATE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- NYS ELA Assessment
- NYS Math Assessment
- WIDA Access for students identified as English language learners
- NYSAA for ELA
- NYSAA for Math



GRADE 4

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Explore New York State's geography, including major mountains, rivers, waterways, and the Erie Canal, and how these features influenced settlement and growth.
- Learn about the Haudenosaunee and Algonquian nations, including their cultures, communities, traditions, and systems of governance.
- Investigate New York's colonial history, including Dutch and English rule and the state's important role in the American Revolution.
- Understand the structure of New York State government, including the roles of elected leaders and the responsibilities of government branches.
- Examine how transportation developments, such as the Erie Canal and railroads, transformed New York's economy and communities.
- Explore how migration and immigration shaped New York's diverse population, culture, and identity.

ART

- Create and develop original artwork by exploring, planning, and expressing ideas using a variety of materials, tools, and techniques.
- Present artwork by selecting, preparing, and sharing work while explaining artistic choices and creative processes.
- Respond to artwork by observing, describing, interpreting, and evaluating works of art using age-appropriate art vocabulary.
- Connect art to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of art and its role in the world.

MUSIC

- Create simple rhythms and melodies using singing, instruments, movement, and sound.
- Perform and respond to music by singing, playing, and moving while identifying basic musical elements (beat, tempo, dynamics, and pitch) and describing what is heard and felt.
- Present music by participating in classroom performances and demonstrating appropriate performance etiquette.
- Connect music to personal experiences, other subject areas, cultures, traditions, and historical contexts to deepen understanding of music and its role in the world.
- Curricular Band, Orchestra and Chorus also available to students in grades 4-12.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills and movement patterns.
- Apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance.
- Demonstrate the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health enhancing level of physical activity and fitness.
- Recognize the value of physical activity for overall wellness, enjoyment, challenge, and/or self expression.
- Recognize career opportunities and manages personal and community resources related to physical activity and fitness to achieve and maintain overall wellness.

TIPS FOR PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

Daily Reading: Read with your child every day using age-appropriate books with rich vocabulary.

Communication: Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences and listen attentively to their answers.

Language Play: Play rhyming or "opposites" games to build language skills.

Math: Invite your child to estimate before solving a problem and then explain why their answer makes sense. Estimation builds confidence and helps students recognize reasonable solutions.

Civic and Global Engagement: Encourage your child to locate New York State regions, lakes, rivers, and cities on a map and discuss why geography matters.

Scientific Thinking: Encourage your child to observe and describe Earth's processes, waves, plant and animal structures. Encourage students to explore nature and the ways that organisms interact with their environment.

Home Language Use: Use your native language at home with your child. Strong native language skills help students to succeed in school.