

- make observations and conduct investigations to build an understanding of magnetism and electricity.
- conduct investigations and use appropriate technology to build an understanding of how food provides energy and materials for growth and repair of the body.

Fourth grade students learn in many different ways.

Students make measurements using tools, rulers, thermometers, containers, and balances. They learn that the most useful skills are the ability to make careful measurements, to record observations and measurements, to make predictions based on observations, and to communicate results through charts, simple graphs, writing and speaking. Fourth graders will learn as a whole class, in teams of three, through both guided and independent learning centers. Students are encouraged to ask questions, express what they think, and compare their ideas with ideas of others. They are provided experiences to share and compare with classmates. Fourth graders continue to relate science to their everyday world and recognize that science is fun.

Visual Arts

The study of visual arts builds on learning that was introduced and emphasized at previous grade levels. Skills and concepts continue to be developed through guided practice, independent choice and problem-solving.

Visual arts emphasis at Grade 4 is on:

- The ability to organize and sequence
- Incorporating multi-step processes
- Creating light and dark values in their work
- North Carolina history, animals, symmetry, narrative writing
- Exploring the art of North Carolina
- Recognizing the styles of individual artists
- Comparing and contrasting art movements

Students in Grade 4 attend formal art classes weekly with a professional art teacher. They will be exposed to the idea that art can be a hobby or profession.

Music

The study of music builds upon skills learned at previous grade levels. Once a week, children attend formal music classes with a professional music teacher. Learning is more structured than in previous grade levels. Focus areas include: the ability to demonstrate expression while singing and playing instruments; increasing ability to sing on pitch and play various rhythms; developing skills in creating and composing music using major scales; reading pitches in treble clef; developing listening skills; and understanding music in relation to history and culture. Children learn to respond to music and show respect for the efforts of others.

Physical Education (PE)

Students attend physical education with a certified physical education teacher at least once a week. Learning is more structured than in previous grade levels. Students create original dances, rhythmic routines, demonstrate competence in movement forms found in sport activities and basic gymnastics. Students explore and build upon strategies learned from previous simple games and activities, through applications to specific sport activities (e.g. guarding, creating space, triangulation, etc.). Fourth grade students relate the benefits of an active lifestyle, fitness, good nutrition and mental/spiritual wellness to personal well-being. They learn to apply critical elements to improve personal performances in fundamental and selected specialized skills. Students demonstrate focused work, cooperatively and productively, alone, with a partner, or in small groups.

Health Education

Fourth Graders identify the dangers of drug abuse and smoking, and explore ways to avoid these behaviors. Students discuss handling emergencies, general first aid, and learn the value of getting along with others as they build relationships.

Parents/Guardians will receive a Family Living, Ethical Behavior and Human Sexuality (FLEBHS) Parent Packet which is designed to share the curriculum information with the family. Fourth grade FLEBHS can be described as character education, and consists of instruction that promotes understanding of the physical, mental, emotional, social and moral aspects of human growth and development, including male and female relationships. It emphasizes positive behaviors, attitude development and guidance related to relationships with family members and others.

Special Education

Some children have special needs. It may be discovered through the course of the year that your child has special needs, either because of a learning problem that affects his ability to process information or because of special physical, mental or emotional conditions. Your teacher may discuss the need for further testing or you may notice a problem yourself that you choose to discuss with the school. If your child is evaluated and properly identified, you and a team of teachers will develop an Individualized Education Program, (IEP) or create a Section 504 Plan (a special instruction sheet that deals specifically with your child's needs). Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools offers all services required by federal and state laws and guidelines.

Parent Support

Reading

- Minimum of 20 minutes daily, independent reading at your child's reading level
- Build vocabulary using dictionaries and thesauruses
- Read to your child and ask questions about the story
- Research information on topics of interest and use the library
- Write letters, reports and journal entries based on informed judgments
- Read and interpret maps, charts and graphs

Math

- Practice multiplication and division facts
- Solve multiplication problems
- Practice measuring objects
- Find the area and perimeter of 2-dimensional objects
- Find patterns in nature, clothes, buildings, etc.
- Discuss the graphs found in the newspaper
- Record the weekly temperature on a grid

Writing

- Read with your child. Look for ways that authors use action words, words that describe, interesting words, etc. in their writing
- Ask the child to list everything he/she knows about a topic (zebras, baseball, girl scouts, trucks, water, etc.). Then ask him/her to categorize the information (ex: ZEBRAS: Write down ideas about how they look, what they eat, where they live, their habits, etc.). Parents may contribute to the brainstorming of information so that the child will have many ideas to organize. The student can construct paragraphs from the groupings of relevant ideas
- Play spelling games with your child
- Use the newspaper/other publications to pick out interesting words to learn to spell
- Use misspelled words from your child's own writing to learn to spell

In compliance with federal law, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools administers all education programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination against any person on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability.



Especially for Parents

Family Curriculum Guide

Curriculum and Instruction - 980-343-6975
Family Services - 980-343-6256



REACH FURTHER.

Global competitiveness starts here.

Reading and Writing

Fourth graders are reading for pleasure and information. By using the strategies and skills developed in previous grades, the students can now focus on personal concepts and thought development. Students will be reading from a variety of stories, chapter books and nonfiction material to increase the ongoing development of comprehension strategies and skills.

Fourth graders will read independently.

Fourth graders will be reading many different kinds of stories. They will continue to build their vocabulary and increase the number of words they recognize.

Fourth Graders will continue to develop word attack skills.

Fourth graders will continue to develop skills when encountering unknown words by breaking the word apart and looking at the meanings of the parts (prefixes, suffixes and roots). They will also be using dictionaries to look up new words. They will use many different skills to help them understand what they have read.

Fourth graders will develop concepts and personal thoughts about what they have read.

Fourth graders will develop ideas through discussion of their feelings and reaction to what is being read. They will be able to identify character, setting, and plot.

Fourth graders will use comprehension skills and strategies independently.

Fourth graders will be using specifically taught comprehension strategies to allow monitoring of understanding, making sense of text and solving problems while they are reading. Students will also be using comprehension skills to deepen their understanding of the logic behind the text.

Fourth graders will learn research and inquiry skills.

Fourth graders develop inquiry and exploration skills that focus on the production of genuine research. These concepts will be developed from literature read and explored during class.

Fourth graders write their own personal or imaginative narratives, information articles and “how to” pieces.

Fourth graders focus on organizing their writing in logical ways. They learn to describe things in a “step-by-step” manner. They will write stories from their own experiences and from their imaginations. They also write biographies, research reports, folktales, letters, plays, and poetry.

Fourth Graders use a variety of planning strategies for their composition.

Fourth graders plan before they write their compositions. When writing stories, they make decisions about characters, events, and when and where things take place. They organize information logically and select the details they wish to include. Students use these plans to write their compositions.

Fourth graders revise their writing.

After completing a composition, fourth graders share their work with small groups or the class. They receive suggestions and compliments from their classmates and instruction from the teacher. Using this advice and instruction, they improve their compositions.

Fourth graders edit their work.

Fourth graders edit their work for correct use of spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

Fourth graders continue to build upon the cursive writing skills taught in second and third grade.

Technology Integration: Word Processing

- Fourth graders use word processing as a tool for writing, editing, and publishing paragraphs, stories, and assignments.

Mathematics

Major Concepts

- Place value through the hundredths place
- 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication
- 3-digit by 2-digit divisions
- Addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators
- Addition and subtraction of decimals
- Area and perimeter
- Parallel and perpendicular
- Plotting points for shapes drawn on the coordinate grid
- Transformations of geometric shapes
- Bar graphs and line graphs
- Median, range, and mode
- Probability
- Using variables
- Order of Operations
- Proportional change

Skills to Maintain

- Multi-digit addition and subtraction
- Basic multiplication and division
- Coordinate grids
- Circle graphs
- Writing number sentences to match story problems
- Names of 2-D shapes

Technology Integration: Spreadsheet

- Use spreadsheets and graphs to organize, calculate, and display data in content areas.

Fact Family

$$5 \times 7 = 35$$

$$7 \times 5 = 35$$

$$35 \div 7 = 5$$

$$35 \div 5 = 7$$

Social Studies

Fourth graders study the history, geography, culture, economy and government of North Carolina. They analyze the influence and effects that major groups of people and historical events have had in creating the state we live in today.

Fourth Graders analyze the characteristics of the people of North Carolina, past and present.

Fourth graders learn about N.C. American Indians and other major groups of people that live in North Carolina, their similarities and differences, and discuss their origins, characteristics, beliefs, and what influence they have on N.C. customs. They examine how people in N.C. have changed over time and the factors that have influenced that change (economic, social and political situations).

Fourth graders learn about the three regions of North Carolina.

Fourth graders learn that there are three geographical regions in our state; the Coastal region, the Piedmont region, and the Mountain region. They learn to describe and compare the physical and cultural characteristics of each region. The children study the differences in plant and animal life, major landforms, and other natural resources from region to region and how these differences affect life for North Carolinians living in these areas. They discuss how the people use, modify or adapt to the different environments of each region, past and present.

Fourth graders examine how North Carolinians govern themselves.

Fourth graders learn about the local, county and state governments in North Carolina and their relationship. They learn about the three branches of state government, which levels provide which services, and explain how these services are financed (taxes). They discuss the personal characteristics and skills necessary to be a good leader, determine the responsibilities of government authorities, and how they are elected.

Fourth graders evaluate how people in North Carolina use economic resources and analyze economic relationships.

Fourth graders discuss limited resources, the importance of not wasting and the difference between want and need. They look at ways in which NC's resources and economy are related, and how discoveries, inventions and technology have influenced the economy. Their field trip to Biztown reinforces the economic and technology concepts they have learned. They spend a day implementing the roles people play and applying the skills they have been taught are needed to run a city effectively.

Technology Integration: Societal/Ethical Issues

Fourth graders will identify, discuss, and visually represent ways technology has changed the lives of people in North Carolina and explore and discuss occupations/careers that use computers/technology tools in North Carolina.

Science

The yearly theme for fourth grade is **Analyzing Systems** and knowledge of this is achieved through hands-on, inquiry based learning.

Fourth grade students develop the skills of science.

Through hands-on, inquiry based learning fourth grade students explore the yearly theme of Analyzing Systems and learn how they work. Thinking about and analyzing systems helps students understand the relationship of mass, energy, objects, and organization. Students predict, observe, investigate, research, and communicate. They collect data and make measurements, control variables and infer, analyze and compare. Fourth graders take notes and keep a science notebook.

Fourth grade students focus on the following goals from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

The learner will:

- make observations and conduct investigations to build an understanding of animal behavior and adaptation.
- conduct investigations and use appropriate technology to build an understanding of the composition and uses of rocks and minerals.