



Newburyport Literacy Curriculum Framework Guide

Fourth Grade Focus Areas

In Fourth Grade, the focus of student learning is on four areas:

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Speaking and Listening
4. Language

Fourth Grade Overview

Reading:

The PreK-5 standards ensure exposure to a range of texts and tasks as well as rigor with increasingly complex texts through the grades. Students read widely from a broad range of high-quality, increasingly challenging literary and informational texts and curriculum is intentionally structured to develop rich content knowledge within and across the grades. A research-and-evidence based scope and sequence for phonological awareness and phonics development are important components of an effective, comprehensive reading curriculum designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines.

Reading - Literature and Informational Text

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text states explicitly and when drawing inferences
- Determine a theme from a story, drama, or poem from details in a text; summarize a text
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details
- Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases from text on grade 4 topics
- Make connections between a written story or drama and its visual or oral representation, identifying specific descriptions and directions in the written text
- Compare/contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics and patterns of events in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures
- Explain major differences among prose, poetry, and drama and refer to structural elements of each
- Describe the overall structure (e.g. chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts or information in a text
- Compare/contrast points of view from which different stories are narrated
- Compare/contrast firsthand/secondhand accounts of the same event or topic; describe the differences
- Independently and proficiently read and comprehend literary and informational texts representing a variety of genres, cultures & perspectives for at least a grade 4 complexity.

Reading - Foundational Skills

- Phonics and Word Recognition - Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding
 - Combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology to read accurately unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of context
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- Fluency - Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension

Writing

In PreK-5, students learn to use writing to support opinions, demonstrate understanding of subjects, and convey real and imagined experiences and events. The key purpose of writing which is to communicate clearly to an audience and adapt their writing to accomplish a particular task. Instruction focuses on three types of writing (opinion, informational/explanatory, narrative) which encompass a variety of texts including poems, short stories and memoirs. Students will engage with a wide range of model texts and study authors and writing across genres.

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly
- Write narratives in prose or poem form to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing
- Use technology, including web-based communication platforms, to produce and publish writing as well as collaborate with others
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation in different aspects of a topic
- Write routinely over extended time frames for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening

In preK-5, Students are provided with ample opportunities to take part in a variety of rich, structured conversations as a whole class, in small groups, and with partners. Students learn to be productive group members of these conversations as they contribute, respond, compare/contrast, and analyze/synthesize ideas. Standards ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and application.

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly

- Paraphrase portions of a written text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats
- Report on a topic, text, procedure or solution to a mathematical problem, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace and using appropriate vocabulary
- Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance development of idea or theme
- Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is appropriate

Language

In preK-5, students must gain control of many conventions for standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics along with learning to convey meaning effectively. Conventions, effective language use and vocabulary are inseparable from reading, writing, speaking and listening.

- Conventions of Standard English:
 - Demonstrate command of conventions of standard English and usage when writing or speaking, including capitalization, punctuation and spelling
 - Produce complete sentences, using knowledge of subject and predicate
 - Correctly use frequently confused words, use helping verbs, relative pronouns and adverbs, prepositional phrases, and progressive verb tenses
 - Write legibly by hand using print or cursive; Write their given name signature in cursive
 - Knowledge of Language: Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading or listening
 - Choose words or phrases to convey ideas precisely; differentiate between contexts that call for formal English and situations where informal discourse is appropriate
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
 - Determine/clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases from grade 4 reading and content
 - Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings including simple similes and metaphors, idioms, antonyms, and synonyms
 - Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being