

HAMPTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT **GRADE 4 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

English Language Arts

Journeys is a research-based reading program that offers effective instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The writing component provides a common language for all students K-5. This program also provides leveled interventions targeted to each individual child's needs.

Reading Comprehension

Instruction is provided for growth in analysis of fiction and nonfiction sources and texts. Students demonstrate comprehension by applying skills such as cause and effect, compare and contrast, drawing conclusions and making inferences. These skills help students reflect on what they are reading. Students will be asked to justify responses with evidence from text.

Vocabulary

Students correctly identify and use words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs, suffixes, and prefixes) to further build a reading vocabulary and improve reading fluency. Emphasis will be placed on the use of context clues to determine word meaning.

English Grammar and Composition

Writing instruction emphasizes multiple paragraph pieces with one central idea. Students use controlled organization including logical order with meaningful and time/order transitions. Students will use the five-step writing process independently, which includes prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing based upon writing traits. Narrative, informative and opinion writing are taught. Grammar skills (parts of speech, sentence types, and mechanics) are taught, applied and assessed through tests/quizzes and writing.

Spelling

The spelling program consists of weekly word lists and lessons that emphasize and teaches spelling patterns and strategies. Differentiated spelling lists will be provided. The Spelling City program will be used for weekly tests and homework.

Resources

Journeys (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) Language Arts Program, texts from various online resources, children's literature novels

Assessments

Tests, quizzes, projects, homework and daily work will be evaluated to assess student learning and mastery.

Mathematics

"*Math in Focus*" is the U.S. version of Singapore's most popular and proven math curriculum. Based on a framework developed by the Singapore Ministry of Education, "*Math in Focus*" draws on best practices from around the world and highlights problem solving as the focus. Students learn the "why" and the "how" in this research-based program that is effective in balancing mathematics skills, hands-on experiences, and problem solving to help all students achieve greater mathematic success. *Math in Focus* also allows for differentiation to meet individual student needs.

Curriculum topics include:

Fourth Grade will focus on Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Fractions, Geometry, and Measurement. Instruction will expand on previously-learned skills with a strong emphasis on Multiplication and Fractions.

Resources

Math in Focus®: Singapore Math (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) by Marshall Cavendish, computer software and manipulatives

Assessments

Tests, quizzes, projects, homework and daily work will be evaluated to assess student learning and mastery.

Social Studies

The social studies curriculum teaches key concepts and facts in relation to essential understandings. The curriculum is aligned to the Pennsylvania Standards and delineates what students must *know, understand*, and are able to *do*. The regions of the United States and Pennsylvania history are emphasized during the fourth grade experience.

Resources

Houghton Mifflin Social Studies textbooks and e-books

Pennsylvania: Adventures in Time and Place (Macmillan/McGraw-Hill)

Assessment

Tests, quizzes, homework, projects and daily work will be used to evaluate student learning and performance.

Science

The Science program is designed to support the academic standards in Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology. Students will explore content in the areas of life sciences, earth and space science, and physical science. In addition to foundational concepts, critical thinking, real-world application, and engineering will be integrated throughout classroom instruction. Employing an inquiry model helps further deepen students' understanding of scientific concepts.

Resources

Harcourt Science

Smithsonian Science for the Classroom: How Can Animals use Their Senses to Communicate?

How Does Motion Energy Change in a Collision?

What is Our Evidence that We Live on a Changing Earth?

Assessment

Tests, quizzes, homework, projects and daily work will be used to evaluate student learning and performance.

Library/Keyboarding/Computers

Students in fourth grade are scheduled as a class once a week for 45 minutes. Students may check out two items at a time, one of which may be a magazine. Students may revisit the library throughout the week to exchange books. Curriculum areas include: Dewey Decimal System, shelf arrangement, reference materials, parts of a book, genres of literature, book publication process, Newbery award, and bibliography and study skills. Informational skills include search strategies using Destiny, identifying and using information from a database, plagiarism, copyright issues, and Internet safety and the responsibility of interacting on-line using Web 2.0 tools. Keyboarding continues at this grade level along with basic computer applications.

Competencies

All students in fourth grade will:

- Demonstrate information literacy
- Demonstrate independent learning
- Demonstrate social responsibility
- Demonstrate technology literacy

Music

All elementary students participate in music and performance through singing, listening, and playing musical instruments. This academic discipline enhances logical and spatial reasoning skills by incorporating and strengthening the auditory and kinesthetic learning modalities.

Fourth grade vocal music classes meet twice a week for thirty minutes. Formal assessments are based on group performance of one and two-part songs utilizing expressive elements, more complex rhythmic and melodic notation, and identifying orchestral instruments by sight and sound. Achievement is determined by competency in skills, knowledge of concepts, as well as self and social responsibility. Hampton Township School District's Music Curriculum is based on the National Standards for Music Education.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in a weekly chorus class which will focus on performance skill through a variety of more advanced repertoire. Participants will perform several times a year.

Resources:

Share the Music

Physical Education

In fourth grade, the Physical Education program emphasizes the development of skills and fitness through the content areas of movement exploration, educational games, dance and tumbling. Student success is determined by knowledge of concepts, self and social responsibility and skill development. Tennis shoes and loose, comfortable clothing are required. Classes meet every week for thirty minutes.

Art

The curriculum for fourth grade allows students to explore and experiment with a wider range of materials, technology, techniques, and subject matter. Students will continue to practice a variety of self-assessment strategies and the artistic revision process. All classes will meet once a week for fifty-five minutes.