

Course Description

Grade 4

Course Name: Grade 4

Brief Course Overview

Fourth grade is a year of highly visible progress in all subject areas. The fourth grade program builds on what students have learned in previous years, encouraging critical thinking and 21st Century skills. Instruction is guided by the fourth grade Common Core Standards for Math and Language Arts, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Science, and the American Education Reaches Out (AERO) standards for Social Studies. We also use the Second Step program and our ACS dispositions standards for Character Education. Finally, students participate in various specialist classes. These include Art and Library once a week, bi-weekly lessons in Music, Physical Education, and Technology, as well as Spanish four times a week.

Main Topics of Study

Reading

- Interpreting Characters in Fiction
- Non-Fiction: Reading the Weather, Reading the World
- Reading History
- Poetry
- Historical Fiction Book Clubs

Writing

- Realistic Fiction Writing
- Personal and Persuasive Essays
- Informational Writing About History
- Poetry
- Literary Essays

Math

- Place Value and Operations With Whole Numbers
- Fractions and Decimals
- Geometry, Measurement, and Data

Science

- Structure, Function, and Information Processing in Organisms
- Energy

- Soils, Rocks, and Landforms

Social Studies

- North American Native Americans
- Aztecs, Incas, and Mayas
- Medieval Ages

What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?

Students will know or be able to:

Reading

- Understand fictional characters and be able to interpret and grow ideas about them while reading.
- Understand the setting of a story and how that can influence the development of a fictional character.
- Conduct research projects on a topic in science or history, using text structures to help gather information.
- Read, interpret, and appreciate different types of poetry.

Writing

- Write a realistic fiction story, a personal persuasive essay, and an informational book on a topic.

Math

- Develop understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication.
- Develop understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends.
- Develop understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers
- Understand that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.

Science

- Use various scientific practices to come to the understanding that energy is present whenever there is motion, electric current, sound, light, or heat, and that energy can transfer from one place to other.
- Use various scientific practices to come to the understanding that weathering by water, ice, wind, living organisms, and gravity breaks rocks into smaller pieces, erosion (water, ice, and wind) transports earth materials to new locations, and deposition is the result of that transport process that builds new land.
- Use various scientific practices to come to the understanding that humans, plants and animals have diverse structures that function for survival and growth.

- Use various scientific practices to examine how animals process information and respond to their environment.
- Conduct controlled experiments to test questions.
- Collect and interpret data to build explanations.
- Develop models to explain scientific concepts.

Social Studies

- Determine the causes and effects of change in a society throughout history.
- Describe how cultural contributions from various groups have formed a national identity.
- Understand fundamental economic principles and ways in which economies are shaped by geographic and human factors.
- Understand why societies create and adopt systems of governance and how they address human needs, rights, responsibilities and citizenship.

Pre-requisites

Completion of 3rd Grade

MUSIC

Course Description

Students in Fourth Grade will participate in music class twice a week for the length of the school year.

Throughout the course of the fourth grade year, students will engage in a music program designed to explore musical elements. Instruction will include singing, rhythm, movement, musical games and application of skills on classroom instruments including the bell set, boomwhackers, xylophones and soprano recorder. Emphasis is given to developing the student's skill level in the basic rhythmic notes, eighth note and eighth rest combinations, the dotted quarter note and sixteenth note patterns. Vocally, students will work on developing the head voice and pitch accuracy as well as singing patterns using the complete scale. Concepts such as tempo, dynamics, timbre, form, melody and rhythm will all be explored. Students will also participate in a required concert at the end of the year.

The 4th Grade Music Class addresses the following dimensions of musicianship and human development.

- Children as stewards of musical and cultural heritage
- Children as performers
- Children as critical thinkers

- Children as creative human beings
- Children as informed audience members

Units

- Module 1. Rhythm
- Module 2. Singing
- Module 3. Instruments - Woodwinds
- Module 4. Duration
- Module 5. Christmas Caroling
- Module 6. Styles
- Module 7. Tempo
- Module 8. The Impressionist period
- Module 9 . Harmony
- Module 10. End of the year show
- Module 11. More recorder

Skills and Understandings

- Students will review all Primary Grade music concepts.
- Students will be able to identify, perform, compose, and improvise melodies of the major and minor diatonic scales.
- Students will be able to identify, perform, compose, and improvise more complex rhythms.
- Students will sing in tune with correct posture, breath support, and expression.
- Students will play classroom instruments including the bell set, boomwhackers, xylophones and soprano recorder, with proper executive skill

ART

Course Description

The aim of this course is to develop a curiosity for a better artistic expression, which is an essential component for critical thinking, and self-reflection. Students are exposed to creative themes and approaches to art-making. 4th grades utilize a sketchbook to express their own ideas and to develop their artistic expression. 4th-grade students use technology to do research in order to propose an artwork. It is in this course where students learn how to match their interests and the big idea of the project, they have an abundant choice opportunity for media and techniques, this means that they choose how to create their artwork. The Elementary Art Curriculum utilizes the National Art Core Standards, which gives the students the opportunity to work in a visual journal to develop, grow, and work out ideas. Meaningful feedback is given to students in order to ensure their progress in their art making.

Units

- Unit 1: Tasty art
- Unit 2: Space / Landscapes
- Unit 3: Creative page / sketchbook

- Unit 4: Animals and watercolor
- Unit 5: Architecture drawing
- Unit 6: Doodling / sketchbook
- Unit 7: Clay
- Unit 8: Art History / Impressionism
- Unit 9: Art Show Prep

Skills and Understandings

- To demonstrate age appropriate level of craftsmanship.
- To know the difference between watercolors, tempera, and acrylic paints and what application each can be used for.
- To tell how art is going to be made.
- To create satisfying artwork.
- To produce art which shows different interests.
- To use art vocabulary to critique personal work of art.
- To show how an artist's work is represented in the mass media of today.

PE

Brief Course Overview

Welcome to 4th Grade PE. Our goal in this course is to have healthy students, physically educated and physically active. It is important to develop self confidence to be able to explore and expand our physical abilities through interactive games and routines. During this course we emphasize teamwork, collaboration, observation, goal setting and personal growth.

Main Topics

- Developing Rhythm
- Practicing Balance
- Improving Coordination
- Using Upper and Lower Body to perform different movements
- Developing Space Awareness
- Changes in Speed and Direction
- Reaction Time
- Developing the ability to perform various tasks using all of your senses.

- Practice swimming.

What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?

Students will know or be able to:

- Participate in physical group activities.
- Use different body parts to perform different activities.
- Motivate their classmates in group activities.
- Be respectful towards others.
- Develop balance, coordination and strength throughout the course.
- Learn about setting goals in PE.
- Practicing communication skills.
- Becoming empathetic towards others.

Pre-requisites

Completion of 3rd grade

TECHNOLOGY

Course Description

Fourth grade students start the year by practicing typing and coding skills.

Digital Citizenship is an important part of fourth grade technology. Students talk often about Cyber Bullying and cyberbullying prevention. They also continue learning about internet and making safe and trusty searches. Students in 4th grade start adding references to their work to recognise ownership of online resources.

Students in 4th grade also learn how to open, send and reply to emails. They start working in individual and collaborative projects on Google Drive, Google Docs and Google Slides.

Units

- Publishing 4
- Voice recording
- Research and data 3
- Gmail, Google Drive, Google Docs, and Google Slides.
- Spreadsheets

- Coding 4
- Digital Citizenship 4
- Typing and Keyboarding 2

Skills and Understandings

At the end of fourth grade students will be able to:

- Open, close, and edit Microsoft Word Documents and Powerpoint presentations.
- Record a podcast that informs on a Digital Citizenship topic, like Cyberbullying
- Do research in a safe way, using a kid friendly search engine. Recognise and differentiate websites that are trustworthy from the ones that are not.
- Coding with Scratch to create a game.
- Recognise Bullying and Cyberbullying and know how to stop it or prevent it.

LIBRARY

Course Description

This class is to enable the students to listen to and respond to great stories. They will also be able to find books for their personal enjoyment and research. They will discover the genres they enjoy.

SPANISH

Course Description

This is a course designed to help Fourth grade students achieve proficiency in all components of Spanish language. Students write and read using the Readers and Writer's Workshop Model. Fourth grade students will produce texts and other writing samples throughout the year, following a Bolivian curriculum adapted and enriched from ACS Calvert's standards and expectations. Students are encouraged to use their speaking skills through debates and conversations about current events and literary topics. Students will be introduced to Bolivian traditions, music and food, as well as traditions of Spanish speaking countries. They will also learn about Bolivian history and geography.

Units

- Students will read different types of texts such as:
Narrative: Novel, Legend, Fable, Short stories
Expository: News, Magazine, Newspaper
Persuasive: Letter
Instructive: Recipe, Game instructions
- Students will write, following the Workshop Model:
Narrative: Legend, Story, Fable and Small moment
Expository Text: News and Magazines

Instructive Text: Recipe and Rules for a Game

Persuasive: Letter

- Students will learn Language concepts:

Grammar: Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Verb, Subject and Predicate

Spelling; Capitalization, Spanish written accent, usage of commas and verbal endings

Vocabulary: Prefixes and suffixes, Connectors and Figurative language

- Students will be aware and discuss different traditions and historical events:

Bolivian Independence War, Heroes and Symbols, Festivities and Traditions

Skills and Understandings

Students will know or be able to:

- Read to determine what the text says
- Determine central ideas, summarize the text and key supporting details
- Be able to interpret words and phrases as they are used in the text
- Analyze the structure of texts
- Compare and contrast the points of view
- Evaluate content presented in media
- Understand differences between different genres
- Integrate and evaluate content
- Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently
- 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 to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
- Understand and respect different traditions and historical events from countries around the world

4th Grade ELL Push-in and Pull-out Support

Course Name: English Language Learners Support

Brief Course Overview

The work done in this area involves working with the students to improve their language skills and is destined to benefit students whose native language is not English. The support requires teachers and specialists to collaborate to come up with action plans to address the needs diagnosed in the child. This support comprises two modalities: push-in model and pull-out model.

The push-in model involves the specialist supporting English language learners during their literacy blocks in reading and writing tasks through the use of graphic organizers and strategies from the field of language acquisition that address children's listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This push-in support is aligned to the classroom teacher literacy courses standards (see grade level course descriptions).

The pull-out model includes the creation of a time block out of the regular classroom to address specific language skills and work on them in a relevant and contextualized session in the learning lab. These blocks can be created for a student or for a group of students and will vary in regards to its duration, the tasks performed and the areas to be exercised.

Main Topics of Study

- Grammar rules
- Spelling strategies
- Reading strategies
- Writing strategies
- Vocabulary strategies
- Listening exercises
- Speaking practices

What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?

Students will be able to:

- Learn and use strategies when they encounter a language issue (not knowing a word, not understanding an instruction, misspelling a word...).
- Understand and use grammatical aspects of English.
- Improve sound-letter correspondence skills.

- Learn and Write with a main idea, supporting details a beginning and ending in mind.

Course Name: Spanish as a Second Language

Brief Course Overview

The SSL (Spanish as a Second Language) for ES has been created to teach the Spanish Language and Hispanic Culture, to students with little or no knowledge at all of this language or the Hispanic Culture.

All language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, are integrated into thematic units that cover the five goal areas of world language education: Communication, Connections, Comparisons, Communities and Cultures. Students will be engaged in activities that promote critical thinking, enhance their communicative ability and foster respect and appreciation of cultures other than their own.

Due to the nature of the student population that has access to SSL, classes tend to be multi-level and therefore, the approach of the teaching is basically differentiated. We also emphasize the use of technology whenever possible, allowing for teacher-guided, active learning in class. This also means that students can work independently at home to advance their learning of the Spanish Language.

Main Topics of Study

- Bienvenidos (Welcome)
- En la clase (In the classroom)
- Feelings, likes, dislikes, different expressions.
- Different Places at school and in the world; traveling.
- Mi familia –(My family) Getting to know each other..
- Celebrations
- Bolivia and other Spanish speaking countries and their culture.
- Bolivian traditional festivities: Todos Santos, Alasitas, Carnaval.

What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?

Students will be able to:

- Understand that being proficient in another language/s is an asset.
- Existing skill set is built year after year
- Speaking Spanish connects them to a global community of Spanish speakers.
- The number of Spanish speakers is growing very fast and the United States will be the country with the most Spanish speakers in the next three decades.
- Experiencing different cultural perspectives widens the lens to a richer understanding of the world.
- The immigration experience can be different for all.