

## Grade4

### Academic Overview

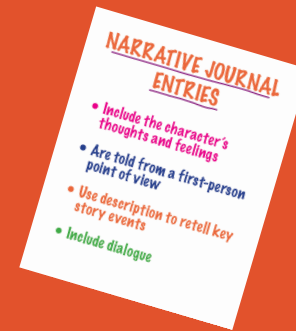
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#### Introduction

This brochure provides an overview of the academic program, skills, and concepts in Fourth Grade. It outlines the core subjects, instructional goals, and learning expectations for your child. Newington offers a comprehensive curriculum with sequential instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, and wellness at every grade level.

**Below is a sample of what your child will be working on in Fourth Grade:**





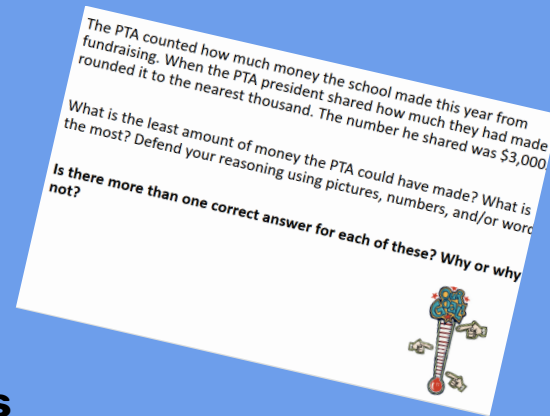
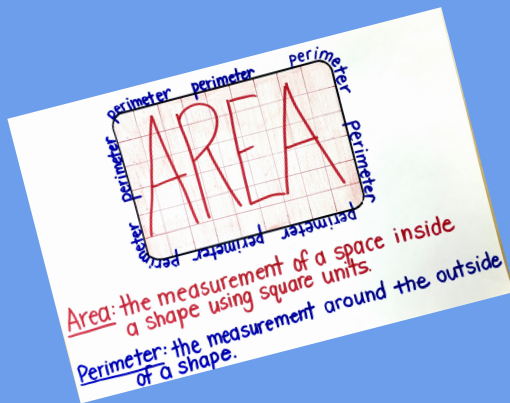
## Language Arts

### Purpose of the Language Arts Curriculum

*The Language Arts Curriculum aims to enhance all facets of language, including reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. This development ensures that students can communicate effectively in a technological and constantly evolving world.*

### **Students will:**

- Determine the main idea or theme in a text and provide supporting evidence.
- Refer to details and examples in a text to support inferences.
- Explain how different parts of a text are connected.
- Understand the meanings of general and academic vocabulary.
- Compare and contrast themes, points of view, and key details in texts.
- Write opinion, persuasive, and literary essays; compose personal narratives and realistic fiction; and create informational pieces based on expertise and research.
- Accurately report on a topic using facts and relevant descriptive details.
- Use correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar in written work.
- Engage in meaningful conversations and contribute to others' ideas.
- Read multisyllabic words and apply knowledge of syllabication patterns, roots, and affixes.
- Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Use context to confirm or correct words while reading.
- Summarize fiction and non-fiction texts using relevant information.
- Infer and interpret story elements.
- Identify text structure and the author's purpose for using it.
- Compare and contrast the points of view in different stories.
- Interpret information presented visually or orally.
- Use capitalization and punctuation appropriately.
- Write legibly, forming manuscript and cursive letters correctly.



## Mathematics

The fourth grade math curriculum aims to build on students' existing skills and concepts. Students engage in meaningful and challenging units of study, aligned with the Common Core State Standards, to enhance their mathematical understanding.

The program incorporates various instructional methods, including direct instruction for specific skills, guided math for reinforcement in small groups, independent practice, and collaborative learning to enhance communication and critical thinking.

Through various activities, students will:

- Read, write, and compare multi-digit numbers using place value.
- Identify factor pairs for numbers up to 100.
- Achieve fluency in multiplication and division facts.
- Multiply 4-digit numbers by 1-digit and 2-digit numbers.
- Divide 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers with or without remainders.
- Compare fractions with unlike denominators.
- Solve problems involving addition/subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers.
- Multiply fractions by whole numbers and compare decimals to the hundredths place.
- Use equations to represent and solve word problems.
- Apply estimation to assess the reasonableness of answers.
- Classify polygons and understand properties like parallel lines and angles.
- Convert measurements and solve measurement-related word problems.
- Tackle addition and subtraction problems to determine unknown angles.
- Communicate mathematical reasoning effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Solve problems related to area and perimeter.
- Understand problems clearly and persist in finding solutions.
- Clearly and precisely communicate mathematical thinking both orally and in writing.
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This curriculum fosters problem-solving skills and perseverance in students.

# Science

In fourth grade, students continue to build on their experiences from Grade 3 and embark on an exciting new journey of scientific inquiry, allowing them to discover and understand the world around them. They actively make observations and predictions, ask meaningful questions, seek relevant information, and conduct hands-on experiments. Through analyzing data, they draw conclusions and present their findings effectively. The students analyze data and use it to draw and present conclusions. The students learn about rocks, erosion, and natural hazards.

They learn about structures of the human body and the function they serve. Additionally, they learn about the properties of sound and how sound waves work. Finally, students explore energy and what is needed to make things move.



## Social Studies

In Grade 4, students study United States Geography, focusing on the cultural, economic, and political development of various regions. This study encourages in-depth inquiry by examining multiple sources, allowing students to explore regions through history, civics, and economics.

Students are prompted to generate and research compelling questions, such as:

- **What defines a region?**
- **How do various factors influence settlement patterns?**
- **In what ways do advancements in science and technology impact communities and the environment?**
- **What motivates people to migrate to or from a region?**
- **How would our lives change if we lived in a different region?**



# Health

The health program aims to empower students to communicate and advocate for their needs while promoting healthy choices. Aligned with the [Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum](#), it covers health promotion and disease prevention in a developmentally suitable way. Key skills developed include analyzing health influences, accessing reliable information, practicing health-enhancing behaviors, and refining communication, decision-making, goal-setting, and advocacy skills.

The program covers health promotion and disease prevention concepts in a developmentally suitable way. Students will enhance their skills for healthy living, including:

- Practicing health-enhancing behaviors
- Demonstrating interpersonal communication
- Developing decision-making, goal-setting, and advocacy skills

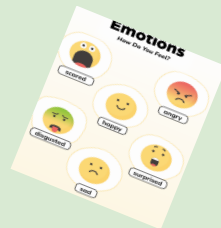
For fourth graders, the curriculum emphasizes personal health care, the negative effects of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, strategies for handling peer pressure, and understanding the impact of diseases on the body. Additionally, personal hygiene practices are included.

The health curriculum also prioritizes social emotional development, fostering self-awareness, self-management, social skills, social awareness, and self-care. This foundation supports students in developing the Habits of Work as outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate, aiming to cultivate engaged learners, responsible citizens, and accountable individuals.

## Focus on Safe and Healthy Boundaries

At the elementary level, the curriculum addresses safe and healthy boundaries by teaching students about appropriate displays of affection, the concept of safe versus unsafe touches, and the importance of setting personal boundaries. Students are empowered to feel safe and encouraged to speak with a trusted adult when necessary, while also learning to respect others' boundaries.

Moreover, the state framework emphasizes age-appropriate education on safe and healthy boundaries. At the elementary level, students learn about appropriate expressions of affection, including what constitutes safe and unsafe touches. They are taught their rights to establish boundaries, feel secure, and communicate with a trusted adult when necessary, as well as to respect the boundaries set by others. Newington Schools recognizes the importance of these topics for student well-being, establishing a foundation for the prevention of sexual abuse and assault. However, in accordance with Connecticut General Statute 17a-101q, if you prefer your child not to participate in the sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention component, please submit a written request to your child's teacher.



## Art

Art education promotes self-awareness, self-expression, and well-being. The art program promotes interdisciplinary experiences that aid students in the integration of ideas, concepts and processes, and in a holistic perception of their world. It promotes an understanding of the diverse cultures in society as reflected in the arts. In fourth grade, an increased visual awareness is developed as students learn to identify subtle visual qualities in nature and the constructed environment as well as artworks.

### ***Students will:***

- develop their knowledge of design concepts
- understand the ideas and designs for artwork that can come from different views of the environment
- contrast and compare the functions, cultural origin and relative age of artwork from different time period
- examine and reflect upon the process of creating their artwork and the artwork of others
- identify various careers that use of visual arts
- continue to make a correlation between the visual arts and other content areas





## Music

Music education significantly contributes to the development of essential skills such as learning, creativity, communication, teamwork, discipline, respect for others, cultural awareness, and self-esteem through personal achievements. The elementary music program is designed to cultivate these skills in children, preparing them for success in school, society, and life.

### ***Students will:***

- Enhance their vocal abilities by using their 'singing' voice and singing 'in-tune.'
- Deepen their understanding of classroom instruments by exploring, demonstrating, and identifying various patterns on these instruments.
- Continue studying symphonic instrumentation, focusing on the four families of instruments and identifying them within the listening repertoire.
- Learn a variety of new musical terms and symbols.

**Performing Opportunities:** Fourth-grade students will have the unique chance to participate in various performing organizations. They may also choose to further develop their vocal skills by joining the chorus.



The Wellness program for fourth graders aims to enhance children's understanding of their movement capabilities, leading to improved mastery of various movement skills. This program encourages individual and creative responses, enabling students to progress at their own pace.

In fourth grade, students are introduced to skills specific to both individual and team sports. Through this exposure, they develop:

- **Fitness appreciation**
- **Ability to work with a partner**
- **Ability to function as part of a team**