

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Summary

GRADE FOUR

This brochure describes the critical
learnings for the Fourth Grade

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The English Language Arts program, through various forms of literature and textbooks, integrates the learning of speaking, listening, reading, writing, and thinking skills. Language conventions are practiced and applied to many forms of writing throughout the curriculum to help students realize a more effective means of communication.

Reading

- Vocabulary development/context clues
- Figurative language
- Summarizing
- Main idea / details
- Literal and inferential comprehension
- Dictionary skills
- Literary genres
- Literary elements (character, setting, plot, turning point)
- Author's purpose
- Predicting outcomes
- Cause and effect
- Sequencing
- Fact / opinion
- Literature appreciation

Composition

- Parts of speech
- Grammar
- Word usage
- Punctuation
- Capitalization
- Sentence structure / variety
- Paragraph development (topic sentence, supporting details and concluding sentence)
- Types of writing
 - narrative, descriptive, expository
 - persuasive, reports, letter, poetry,
 - open response questions
- Organizational research skills
- Writing process
- Topic development
- Spelling

MATHEMATICS

The grade four mathematics program allows students to make the transition from hands on activities to a higher level of understanding through a step-by-step progression. Through these activities, students can develop their mathematical abilities, which they can use in everyday life.

- Number theory and numeration
- Place value
- Estimation
- Division / multiplication by 1 and 2 digits
- Addition / subtraction, up to 4 digits
- Order of Operations (intro. to algebra)
- Fractions, decimals and percents
- Solids and plane geometry
- Probability
- Data Collection / Analysis (graph and data table construction)
- Making change and counting money
- Problem solving strategies
- Time and measurement

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCE

The history and social science program gives students an ability to gain understanding of concepts in geography, history, economics, civics and government. Students learn skills which will enable them to better understand the past and present world in which they live.

- Early hunter/gatherer clans
- Early Fertile Crescent civilizations
- Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome, China
- Influence of ancient civilizations on modern society
- Geography and climate of various regions
- Producers and consumers
- Democratic and other diverse forms of government
- Technological contributions
- Natural resources
- Understanding diverse social, political and cultural ideologies
- Map Skills

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

The curriculum is focused on three areas of science: Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. Technology is incorporated throughout units of lessons which focus on: Land & Water; Animal Studies; Motion & Design; and Electricity.

- Scientific method
- Forms of energy
- Series and parallel circuits
- Animal classification, characteristics and adaptation
- Design process
- Force and motion
- Land and water interactions
- Electricity and simple circuits
- Magnetism

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Comprehensive health instruction includes health literacy, health promotion, and health education that enhance health and wellness. Using health information for self-management and to build healthy lifestyles is the overall goal. The program has four components: Physical health, social and emotional health, safety and prevention, and personal and community health. Topics are addressed in a developmentally appropriate sequence and depth.

- Fundamental physical skills
- Personal fitness
- Problem solving / cooperative activities
- Low organized games
- Specialized skills and sport activities
- Dance and rhythms
- Tumbling stunts, apparatus
- Sportsmanship

THE ARTS

The Arts program consists of the study and practice of dance, music, theatre and the visual arts. These classes provide an opportunity for development of students' skills and understanding of creating, performing, and responding as well as learning about the historical and cultural content of the arts.

Music

- Sing music with increased confidence including music with steps, skips, leaps and octaves
- Play and sing syncopation
- Play recorder music with repeated tones and step tones
- Move to complex rhythm patterns at show meter and tempo
- Expand standard notation including expressive choices
- Hear and identify rhythmic elements and tones of various instrumental groups
- Respond appropriately in class, rehearsal, and concert settings
- Refine inner hearing
- Expand musical talents to connect easily to classroom subject areas

Art

- Demonstrates an understanding of concepts of line, color, texture, form and shape.
- Creates artwork using a variety of 2D and 3D processes such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and ceramics.
- Explores color relationships
- Draws from life.
- Studies works of famous artists
- Makes connections between Art and other subjects and cultures.
- Uses art vocabulary to discuss and assess artwork.

To Parents/Guardians:

This brochure contains a brief description of the subjects your child will study at each grade level. It has been designed to provide you with a general overview of the content and skills that are taught throughout the year, as well as other pertinent information.

It is hoped that the combined use of this brochure and meetings with your child's teachers and principal will keep you informed of the curriculum goals of the North Reading Public Schools.

It is important to note that children learn and grow at different rates. Although a child will develop skills and learn at his or her own pace, each child will be challenged to demonstrate a level of progress during the school year.

The Mission of the North Reading Public Schools is to educate all students by providing a safe learning environment which challenges and encourages them to be thinking, creative, and responsible individuals who are confident and committed to excellence, service, and life-long learning.

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILD...

- Develop good nutritional, rest, and safety habits.
- Promote home study skills and self-discipline.
- Provide time at home to show an active interest in your child's daily school activities.
- Help your child select materials and ideas at home that will contribute to class activities.
- Plan family experiences that support topics studied at school.
- Encourage your child to pursue his or her own individual interests.
- Volunteer in your child's school.
- Attend individual conferences and other school events.
- Consult with the teacher about specific ways to help your child.
- Encourage the use of public resources (e.g. libraries, museums, theaters, concerts, community events, etc.)
- Provide a place and time for your child to comfortably and successfully complete homework assignments.
- Assist your child with the completion and correction of homework, but ensure the final product is reflective of the child's understanding of the assignment.

If you have questions about the curriculum summaries, please contact your child's teacher first. If you need additional assistance, you can call your child's principal or the Director of Curriculum.

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