

LANGUAGE ARTS - Reading

Fourth grade students read 25 books during the school year. They read some of these at home and some at school.

Fourth grade students learn:

- ways to figure out how to say new words and what they mean
- dictionary skills and grammar
- to use what they already know to help them understand what they are reading
- to predict, summarize and ask questions about what they read
- to find main ideas in stories and articles
- to remember important details
- to remember the order of events or ideas in selections they have read
- to tell the difference between facts and opinions
- to describe parts of a story such as characters, setting, and plot
- to read between the lines

NOTE: Reading comprehension skills are also applied to viewing and listening skills.



LANGUAGE ARTS - Writing

Fourth grade students learn to:

- plan before writing, write a first draft, edit, and rewrite as needed
- think about their purpose for writing and who will be reading their writing
- write with a clear beginning, middle and end
- use details which support and relate to the main idea and purpose
- write papers with several paragraphs that clearly relate to the focus
- proofread what they have written for correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- write with a variety of simple and complex sentences
- show an understanding of nouns, pronouns, and verbs
- write legibly in cursive
- use technology to publish their work
- write in a variety of forms, including stories from their own experience, descriptions, persuasive essays, business letters, directions, and a research report

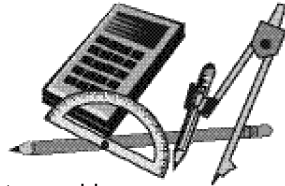


NOTE: Oral communication skills are applied to relevant skills of writing.

MATHEMATICS

Fourth grade students learn to:

- know multiplication facts
- understand how multiplication and division are related
- add and subtract numbers up to 999 to solve multi-step problems
- multiply and divide whole numbers to solve simple problems
- read, write, and compare numbers to millions
- use a calculator to convert fractions to decimals and fractions to percent
- round and estimate with whole numbers to solve problems
- identify the fractional part of a region and the fractional part of a collection of objects
- use fractions and decimals to solve problems



- identify, describe, and classify two- and three-dimensional shapes
- identify congruent and similar figures
- find the perimeter and area of rectangles
- understand how area and perimeter are related
- make change using as few coins and bills as possible up to \$20
- collect and show data with labeled tables and graphs
- use maximum and minimum to describe data
- describe patterns in tables and graphs
- describe outcomes of chance experiments (e.g. 3 out of 4 or $\frac{3}{4}$)
- use physical models or pictures to show arrangements of two or three objects
- solve word problems using actions, objects, words, pictures, or numbers
- explain to others how a problem was solved

SCIENCE

Fourth graders classify minerals and rocks; they study magnetism and its relationship to electricity. Students examine the structural system of the human body and how the parts work together for specific purposes. In addition, students are introduced to the major units of metric measurement through hands-on activities. Teachers will select four or more of the following Science Kits: Human Body, Earth Materials, Rocks & Charts, Magnetism & Electricity, and Measurement.

Fourth grade students learn to:

- design and conduct simple experiments and communicate reasonable explanations for their results
- use appropriate metric tools to accurately determine quantities of length, mass, volume, time, and temperature
- organize, record, evaluate, and communicate data from their experiments using tables and graphs
- record properties of rocks and minerals, sort them by property, and classify them using specific criteria
- investigate how the intricate structures of human bones, joints, muscles, and tendons create the articulated movement of the human body
- conduct experiments to determine the effect of practice on response time
- describe series and parallel electric circuits and the function of switches in electric circuits
- explore magnetism, the use of magnets by humans, and the generation of magnetic fields through the use of electricity
- study women and men of different ages and groups who engage in science



SOCIAL STUDIES

Fourth grade students learn about Region - An area, often composed of states or provinces, that shares significant features that make it different from other areas.



Fourth grade students learn to:

- identify the major geographic features of North America
- describe the processes by which geographic features are created: mountain building, wind and water erosion, topography, man-made, etc.
- identify and describe significant features of the five major regions of North America: Northeast, Southeast, Middle West, Southwest, and West
- know how geography and location contribute to the identifying features of particular regions
- recognize, explain and respect the diversity in which the common elements of regions are manifested, given local to global examples
- know the significant features that identify the Middle West region
- compare and contrast the history of, and life within, the Middle West with other regions of the nation
- trace the economic/industrial development of the Middle West and Minnesota's role within it through time
- identify ways in which the Middle West and Minnesota are interconnected to other states in the region and other regions in the nation and the world

WORLD LANGUAGES

The amount of time for world language instruction varies at sites that have programs. The following expectations apply at sites that do have programs.

Fourth grade students learn to:

- give and follow simple instructions in common classroom interactions
- use memorized phrases and short sentences to exchange information
- use greetings and leave-takings
- use visuals, gestures and illustrations to aid understanding
- write with guidance on familiar topics
- imitate correct pronunciation and intonation of words and phrases
- comprehend main ideas when reading and listening to texts on familiar themes
- comprehend brief written messages and short personal notes on familiar topics
- write or tell about products and/or practices of their own culture to peers in the target culture
- compare simple patterns of behavior in various cultural settings



The district is working on expectations and resources for broader implementation.