



1141 Kimberton Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

2017-2018

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Fourth grade children are socially and emotionally well balanced and comfortable with their surroundings. They are continually growing in self-confidence and they are becoming more mature and independent. Peer relationships are very important in fourth grade and the children often form lasting friendships. Fourth grade students enjoy academic challenges. In fourth grade, the children are being “stretched” academically as well as socially and emotionally. They are developing a good sense of right and wrong and gaining a greater sense of who they are. Students learn how to budget their time and plan for the future. They continue to establish study and research skills, learn test-taking strategies and understand the implications of doing well in their work. They improve upon the organization of their time and resources. Fourth grade is a transition year when the children begin to accept responsibility for their learning, involve themselves in the learning process, and take charge as they approach adolescence.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The fourth grade language arts program uses Junior Great Books and a variety of children’s literature to teach reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Skills such as locating information, decoding unfamiliar words, and developing fluency in both oral and silent reading are emphasized. The students are asked to respond to their reading assignments by answering questions that help to develop their comprehension and foster higher order thinking skills. One way that students are encouraged to share their responses is by taking part in a literature discussion group. The students may also use a literature journal to record their answers to teacher-directed questions. Many writing activities evolve from the literature that is read in the classroom. Other activities include writing different forms of poetry, news articles, opinion pieces, personal narratives and short stories. Grammar lessons including punctuation, capitalization, and parts of speech are part of the instruction. Spelling lists are assigned each cycle. The lists include words that are published from a fifth grade spelling text as well as challenge words.

The students are required to read a book independently each month. By reading quality children’s literature, each student has the opportunity to realize a sense of his or her own success and growth as a reader and writer.

SKILLS:

Speaking and Listening

Asks questions to monitor understanding
Communicates before a group
Listens attentively in class
Follows oral directions

Reading Skills

Uses phonetic clues and structural analysis and/or context clues to decode unfamiliar words
Self-corrects when reading orally
Identifies root words, prefixes, suffixes, inflectional endings, compound words and contractions
Applies prior knowledge before and during reading
Recognizes story elements
Predicts what might come next
Summarizes the main events in a story
Focuses on special story vocabulary
Participates in literature discussion groups
Selects appropriate independent reading materials to read at home

Grammar

Uses punctuation marks effectively
Writes grammatically correct sentences
Identifies kinds of sentences
Understand subjects and predicates
Identifies nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, root words, contractions, prefixes and suffixes

Spelling

Spells high frequency words correctly
Studies for weekly spelling tests
Identifies misspelled words in own writing
Self-corrects misspelled words

Writing Process

Follows Six Trait Model for writing which includes ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions
Writes a well-organized paragraph
Writes for a variety of purposes
Uses rich and varied vocabulary when writing
Uses a variety of sentence structures when writing
Chooses topics to write about

Participates in writing conferences
Revises a story after the first draft
Edits and proofreads stories
Develops interesting characters and plots
Experiments with different styles of writing
Demonstrates research skills
Writes short research report

Handwriting

Uses proper letter formation
Able to accurately record simple dictation
Uses proper spacing

Research Skills

Uses a variety of resources including books and the Internet
Locates (specific) information
Evaluates sources of information
Organizes information on a graphic organizer
Prepares information for presentation for example, as a formal written report, poster, or Google Presentation
Oral presentations of research
Records an accurate bibliography

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Published student writing
Reading games that reinforce skills
Extensive classroom library
Chapel presentations/Small group enrichment
Internet Challenges
World Book Online
Research skills in Library

RESOURCES

Junior Great Books and Reader's Journal
Write Source: Writing and Grammar, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2012
Write Source SkillsBook: Mechanics, Usage, and Grammar, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2012
Spelling and Vocabulary, Houghton Mifflin, Grade 5
Sample trade books used for reading aloud and for directed reading activities:
The War with Grandpa by Robert Kimmel Smith
Trumpet of the Swan by E.B. White
On My Honor by Marion Bauer
The Search for Delicious by Natalie Babbitt
Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry
A Grain of Rice by Helena Pittman

Children of the Longhouse by Joseph Bruchoc
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Fantastic Mr. Fox by Roald Dahl
The Fighting Ground by Avi
The Real Thief by William Steig
Abel's Island by William Steig
Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare
The Witches by Roald Dahl

SIX TRAITS WRITING

The program fosters a common language and consistency about writing and assessment for teachers and students which is designed to teach students the craft and quality of writing. The model is comprised of ideas and content, word choice, conventions, voice, sentence fluency, and organization. These traits will be taught through literature, teacher modeling, and student examples. The strength of the model is the opportunity to give feedback and individualize instruction in writing. Students will continue to contribute to a writing portfolio that will follow them through their years at Montgomery to track growth in writing over time. Common rubrics will be used to assess these writing pieces so teachers will be able to focus on individual strengths and needs in writing instruction. This measurable and consistent scoring system and writing model will develop skilled writers who have a clear understanding of writing genre, process, and reflection of their own work.

MATHEMATICS

The Singapore Math method of teaching and learning is used with the Math in Focus textbook and workbook series. The curriculum is based on a progression from a concrete experience (using manipulatives), to a pictorial stage (picture representations), and finally to an abstract level or algorithm. The sequence gives students a solid understanding of basic mathematical concepts and relationships. These concepts are taught to mastery with a focus on math vocabulary and math literacy. Singapore Math's framework has problem solving at the heart of the curriculum, fostering strong mathematical thinkers who are persistent and confident math students.

Numbers and Operations

Students will recognize, write, name, illustrate, and use whole numbers, fractions, mixed numbers and decimals to represent numbers up to 100,000. They will use mental math and estimation strategies to compare and determine sums, differences, products, and quotients and to solve word problems.

Algebra

Students will demonstrate the relationship between numbers and symbols in formulas. They will identify, describe, and extend numeric and non-numeric patterns using a rule to describe a sequence of numbers or objects.

Geometry

Students will construct and use the attributes and properties of lines, angles and plane figures to analyze, compare, and solve problems. They will find the area and perimeter of two-dimensional shapes using a formula.

Measurement

Students will solve problems involving the area and perimeter of squares, rectangles, and composite figures. They will measure and classify angles.

Data Analysis and Probability

Students will construct and interpret charts, graphs, and tables. They will analyze a data set by finding its mean, median, mode, and range. Students will express the probability of an event as a fraction. Text, workbook, and supporting materials including on-line interactive resources such as: Math in Focus:

Marshall Cavendish Education, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt 2009

Internet websites for additional practice and interactive learning

SOCIAL STUDIES

The students will investigate the early colonization of the United States, to the successful establishment of an independent country, declared in 1776. The study will cover colonial settlement, the causes and events which lead to the Declaration of Independence, American Revolution, Constitution, and the Civil War. Students will also examine the wider world through current events, research of Pennsylvania, cultural experiences, and a geographical focus on all states and capitals.

SKILLS

Understand chronological thinking, people and events in time, context for events

Read and demonstrate understanding of various types of maps

Identify cause, events/effects, and results. Examine current issues and events around the world using Time For Kids magazine and the Internet.

Discover how events in other parts of the world affect lives in this country.

RESOURCES

- Harcourt Social Studies: The United States, Orlando, Florida. Harcourt School Publishers, 2007.
- Internet
- History Pockets, Colonial America and Explorers of Northern America
- Biographies
- If You Lived in the Time of...
- Time for Kids magazine
- Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary (Book One, Two, Three)
- Other relevant books and resources

SERVICE LEARNING

Montgomery has always taken pride in teaching our students the importance of service to others, which is part of our school mission. The service projects are directly tied to our classroom curriculum. This approach gives students the opportunity to observe directly the measurable change that is provided through their efforts in a grade appropriate way. The project will not only affect the recipient of the service, but also the providers -- our students. The service learning project the fourth grade will focus on this year is Candy for the Troops. This correlates with our study of Revolutionary and Civil War. The students will lead the initiative to donate Halloween candy. We will promote, collect, and ship wrapped candy to Operation Gratitude. In addition, students will write letters to deployed military members.