

4th Grade

2011-2012

Textbooks and supplies you will need to follow the grid.

Language Arts

Houghton Mifflin Anthology titled Traditions
Student Practice Book
Teachers Edition Practice Book
Daily 6-Trait Writing
Daily 6- Trait Writing TE Packet
Writing Test Preparation Packet
ZB Handwriting Workbook

Optional:

Spelling Workout
Themed paperback books according to which theme you're in **(these will be found on GL shelves in the library)**

Mathematics

Macmillan McGraw-Hill California Mathematics with TE CD inside cover

Science

Harcourt – California Science
Content Support Workbook
Content Support TE
Assessment Guide

Social Studies

Harcourt – Reflections
Homework/Practice Book
Assessment Program
Maps, Charts, and Graphs

INTRODUCTION

Fourth grade students will be building on the skills and academic goals achieved during third grade, at the same time using those skills to develop, explore, and expand their knowledge of the world around them. The Fourth grade themes; *Journeys, American Stories, That's Amazing, Problem Solver, Heroes, and Nature*, encapsulates the idea that fourth graders are inventive, problem solvers, and eager to explore all that is pertinent to their busy lives. The fourth grade yearlong plan encompasses the California State Content Standards as well as the integration of theme-based materials that cover the gamut from biographies, to nature, and more. Parents who follow the grid will have planning flexibility while maintaining content consistency.

CURRICULUM

READING

Language Arts is centered on the Reading anthologies by Houghton-Mifflin. In fourth grade there is one reader and one practice books with six (6) themes; *Journeys; American Stories; that's Amazing; Problem Solvers; Heroes; Nature-Friend and Foe.*

Reading is designed to cover approximately one story per week with additional literature units periodically. Each week, the story should be read daily, together with your child. The reading level of the selected stories may be above your child's reading level, however, do not be concerned. These readings are specifically designed to create a challenge and foster growth in your child's reading abilities. The stories are meant to be repeated and re-read such that your student can gain confidence and security in his/her reading. Remember that the key to a successful reading lesson is to plan ahead, know the skills you want to focus on and be prepared to model, guide, and instruct your child rather than just assign. The following is a sample format with ideas you may want to adopt and modify to fit your lesson plans, as well as your child's needs.

Days 1 and 2: Introduce the story. Work to build on your child's prior knowledge, have him/her make predictions based on the title, illustrations, take a "picture walk" (go through the story without reading it using the pictures to guess what the story will be about). Reinforce concepts about print (capital letters, punctuation, spaces between words, directionality, title, author, illustrator, etc.), point to each word as you read, and most importantly, enjoy the story.

Days 3 and 4: Have a read aloud using funny voices to match the characters. Take turns reading out loud. Make a point of discussing the story. Be sure your student can sequence (tell the order of events). Ask your child questions that will make him think (details, inferences, cause/effect). By the end of the week, your child should be able to read the story without too much help from you, as well as be able to retell the story in his/her own words.

Days 1 through 5: Complete the corresponding workbook pages in the Practice Book.

ADDITIONAL READING

Aside from the reading textbook, your child should read for a minimum of 20 minutes a day. Select some books that will challenge his/her reading ability and some that are easy enough to build self-confidence.

Each reporting period there are a number of books that will connect with, enhance, and enrich the core curriculum (reading, science, social studies) in some way. They are listed on the grid. You may know of additional books that are theme related, These books are not required reading, however, it is very important that you supplement the textbook with daily free reading.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Within your reading Practice Book are sections devoting 2 to 3 pages per week to each of the language arts skills: spelling, grammar, writing, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Spelling: There is a weekly work list at the back of the practice book. The spelling is created to go hand in hand with the reading curriculum. Give a pre-test, do the workbook pages, and by the end of the week administer a final test.

Writing: Refer to the writing section for weekly writing lessons. Often, parents are hesitant to teach writing because they are unsure of the proper procedures and formats. The Writing Test Preparation Packet along with the Daily 6-Trait Writing gives excellent are designed to help your student become a proficient writer. Daily 6-Trait Writing is a step-by-step process for writing everything from sentences, to letters, to paragraphs, and provides for consistent practice with a goal of published works.

Grammar: The grammar pages in your practice book give writing support as well as teach language conventions necessary for fourth grade proficiency.

Vocabulary: Vocabulary is a necessary skill for improving reading accuracy, comprehension, and fluency. The weekly words build this skill in a manageable and efficient manner.

Comprehension: Each week the workbook focuses on a comprehension skill that will improve your student's ability to question, answer, infer, predict, and ultimately comprehend the stories he/she is reading.

MATHEMATICS

Our school-wide recommended curriculum for math is Macmillan McGraw-Hill, this curriculum is closely correlated to the State Standards. The chapters in the book cover place value, adding/subtracting, multiplication, division/multiple divisors, fractions, mixed numbers, geometry, measurements, temperature, decimals, data, statistics, probability, and algebra. The curriculum offers an abundance of practice to support mastery of concepts. There is an additional Reteach and Skills Practice Workbook available for those students who may need additional support. There will be a Teachers Edition CD included with each book to support instruction. Parents should spend adequate time on instruction and check for understanding prior to student's independent practice. Manipulative kits are also available for check out as needed.

SCIENCE

Harcourt Science is the text that we recommend for science. Companion components include a Content Support Workbook and Assessment Guide. The Harcourt book does an excellent job of covering the state standards for life science, physical science, earth, and health sciences. In addition, we have an extensive science kit program that offers a means for experimentation”, another area required by state standards. A “tool kit” is also provided to coincide with lab experiments within the reading content.

SOCIAL STUDIES

State Standards require all fourth graders to learn the history of the State of California. Through reading *Reflections*, your student’s knowledge of California’s past, present, and future will be taught. Additionally, projects such as a California Native American Report and Mission Report will enhance your student’s understanding of history. Field Trips to a mission, museums, and historical places will help history “come alive” for your child.

Map Skills – gives students a basic knowledge of reading and interpreting maps as well as the skills necessary to do so.

ART

While Art is an enrichment subject, it is always a favorite of young students. Art ideas are scattered throughout the reading and history anthologies and give both art appreciation lessons as well as creative projects. We do have a collection of seasonal projects if you would like additional activities and numerous books on artists and art appreciation in our library and MESH drawers.

ENRICHMENT

You will want to take advantage of the many field trips that are offered throughout the school year. Trips are planned regularly so watch your newsletter for any excursion that you feel will be appropriate for your child or that peaks your interest.

MULTIMEDIA

Be sure to ask your resource teacher about videos, tapes, CD’s and software that may be applicable to your course of study. In addition, there are numerous websites that offer educational challenges for your child.

FOURTH GRADE SUGGESTIONS

Core Reading

Sign of the Beaver – Elizabeth George
Little House on the Prairie – Larua Ingalls Wilder
James and the Giant Peach – Roald Dahl
A Year Down Yonder – Richard Peck
Island of the Blue Dolphins – Scott O’Dell
By the Great Horn Spoon – Sid Fleischman
Patty Reed’s Doll – Rachel Laurgaard
Esperanza Rising – Pam Ryan
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – Roald Dahl
Bunnicula – James Howe
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing – Judy Blume
Trumpet of the Swan – E.B White
Zia – Scott O’Dell

Suggested Projects

Activity Packets are available for all of the ideas shared here to serve as a guide.

Research an Indian Tribe – collect data for a tribe of choice and include important facts.

Mission – Create a small-scale replica of a mission of your choice. Include some important facts about your mission in a written report.

Statehood – write a report on the state of California include some facts and details about the state.