LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM FOR FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade language arts program encompasses reading, writing, and grammar. The focus of the program is to teach and reinforce skills and motivate language development through writing and reading. The program encourages a deep appreciation of literature. Reading skills are taught with the use of a basal text and chosen novels. English grammar and usage skills are important parts of the language arts program. The intent is to use these skills in the writing process. Students are introduced to a variety of writing styles. They do extensive work in writing. The Wordly Wise series introduces new vocabulary words and expands the use of the words in reading and writing activities. The study of root words further develops the understanding and application of the English language. Handwriting focuses on the practice of cursive writing skills while reviewing manuscript.

Reading

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Reading Vocabulary, Comprehension, Literary Skills, Literary Genres, Listening Skills, Communication, Reading Strategies	Identifying and analyzing main idea and supporting details; Sequence; Cause and effect; Comparison and Contrast; Predicting; Drawing conclusions; Character traits and actions; Genre; Understanding plot; Setting; Point of view; Figurative language; Dictionary usage; Following directions; Novels are read accompanied by - detailed examinations, summaries, review questions, final tests, projects, discussions, review questions, paragraphs regarding comprehension, making inferences, Offering personal insights and opinions; Class reads novels and short stories together and individually at students' own pace; Literature circles done with select short stories; Classroom discussion throughout the reading process; Independent reading assigned.

English/ Grammar

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Sentence Type & Structure Sentence Parts, Parts of Speech, Mechanics, Subject/Verb Agreement, Pronoun usage, Punctuation, Various Writing Styles to Incorporate Grammar Practice	Writing correct sentences; Identifying fragments and run-ons; Correct usage of parts of speech; Using correct punctuation and capitalization; Using correct verb tense; Combining and expanding sentences using adjectives and adverbs; Using a variety of sentence types; Editing; Using correct capitalization and punctuation.

Writing

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Writing Process Narrative, Descriptive, Expository, Compare & Contrast, Persuasive; Writing Letters; Book Reports; Poems; Group Research Reports; Debates	Using the writing process that involves - Brainstorming, Drafting, Revising, Editing, Proofreading, Publishing, Public Speaking, Constructive critiquing of writings.

SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM FOR FOURTH GRADE

In the fourth grade social studies program, students learn the geography and history of Florida and the regions and geography of the United States. Texts include the Geography Learn and Explore series and Houghton Mifflin's Social Studies Florida Studies. Each unit of study provides students the opportunity to synthesize information through a variety of assessments including reports, research papers, and a cumulative cross-curricular class research paper at the end of the year. In geography, students review the United States capitals and states, including their location; then students learn the locations of countries of all themajor continents.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Florida History Natives, Basic Map Skills, Exploration, and Colonization of Florida	Identify the 5 major tribes, Understand basic map skills in relation to the Geography of Florida, Understand how and why the Spanish settled in Florida, Trace the early Spanish colonization of Florida, especially St. Augustine.
American Revolution, Seminole Wars, Statehood, Florida	Understand how the American Revolution affected Florida; Describe the Seminole Wars in Florida; Identify the steps to statehood for Florida.
United States Expansion	Identify the settlement of other states in the United States
Civil War, Gilded Age, & World War I	Understand how the Civil War affected Florida, Explain the importance of Henry Plant and other Florida businessmen, Show how the early 20th century and World War I affected Florida.
Great Depression, World War II, Tourism in Florida, Civil Rights	Understand how the Great Depression, World War 2 and Civil Rights movement affected Florida; Make connections between past learning and present time; Show how the growth of tourism changes Florida and its economy.
Modern Florida, Local	Understand the workings of county and city governments in

Governments, and Current Events in Florida	Florida; Identify the major current events in Florida.
Landforms in the United States **Map Skills**	Identify the major landforms and waterways in the United States; Understand how to read maps, charts and graphs related to US History.
Regions of the United States **East, Midwest, West**	Understand the major physical and cultural features of the United States; Understand basic map skills.
Geographical Identification of Countries	Students learn to locate countries in North America, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

MATH CURRICULUM FOR FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade math program is accelerated a year above grade level. Students review and expand on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, fractions, decimals, measurement, and geometry. Students are introduced to algebra and learn to simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions. Students are taught problem solving strategies and are encouraged to think outside of the box. Students have opportunities to practice and apply skills. Critical thinking techniques offer students new strategies for more efficient problem solving. Activities allow for both independent and cooperative learning situations.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Place Value Concepts Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, Measurement, Decimals, Fractions, Geometry, Algebraic Reasoning, Money Usage, Problem Solving, Logic and Reasoning, Calculator Technology	Writing multiples; Multiplying by at least three digits; Rules for divisibility; Dividing by one or more digits; Divide by two-digit divisors; Remainders in quotients; Comparing and ordering decimals; Finding sums and differences of decimals; Decimals to thousandths; Identifying equivalent fractions; Writing fractions in lowest terms; Prime and composite numbers; Adding and subtracting mixed numbers; Changing improper fractions; Least common denominator; Addition and subtraction of fractions; Measurement of angles; Length; Mass; Time; Perimeter; Area; Exponents; Order of operations; Write and solve equations; Add, subtract, multiply, and divide equations; Graph coordinate planes; Problem solving strategies; Logic and reasoning skills; Calculator usage.

SCIENCE CURRICULUM FOR FOURTH GRADE

The fourth grade science program incorporates science experiments in the school's laboratory, hands-on science activities in the classroom, Internet research on science topics, and additional materials along with the textbook (Houghton Mifflin Science, Level 4) to provide a well-rounded curriculum. Students increase their ability to observe, question, predict, and draw conclusions while conducting experiments. They learn to create Science Fair projects through guided practice using the scientific method and proper writing conventions learned in their language arts class. Each student is required to participate in the STEM Fair for Hillsborough County. All students submit a project and two are chosen to compete at the county level. Field trips, video clips, and guest speakers are used to supplement the units.

Topics Covered	Skills Acquired
Physical Science	Properties of matter; Identifying gases, solids, liquids; Volume, mass, and density; Atoms; Elements; Mixtures; Compounds; Magnetism and electricity; Magnetic force field; Static electricity; Current electricity; Circuits; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Observing; Conducting experiments; Analyzing and interpreting data; Drawing conclusions; Evaluating; Communicating results; Recording data; Applying; Classifying; Sequencing; Measuring; Comparing and contrasting; Understanding cause and effect; Outlining; Note taking; Researching; Creating science boards and giving oral reports.
Earth Science	Earth's Land - Shape of the land, Natural resources, Conserving resources; Weather and climate; Air pressure; Wind; Water cycle; Clouds; Predicting weather; Seasons; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Observing; Conducting experiments; Analyzing and interpreting data; Drawing conclusions; Evaluating; Communicating results; Recording data; Applying; Classifying; Sequencing; Measuring; Comparing and contrasting; Understanding cause and effect; Outlining; Note taking; Researching; Creating science boards and giving oral reports.
Life Science	Classifying living things; Vertebrates; Invertebrates; Survival; Adaptations; Behaviors; Plant classification; Predicting; Hypothesizing; Observing; Conducting experiments; Analyzing and interpreting data; Drawing conclusions; Evaluating; Communicating results; Recording data; Applying; Classifying; Sequencing; Measuring; Comparing and contrasting; Understanding cause and effect; Outlining; Note taking; Researching; Creating science boards and giving oral reports.