

# What to Expect in FOURTH GRADE



## Purpose of the Grade Level Guide

- Provide parents a general overview of the content taught at each grade level
- Provide information regarding the district instructional materials used to teach the content
- Provide key communication tools that provide information on student progress
- Provide information regarding district testing
- List resources that can be used to gain additional information

## Language Arts

In fourth grade, students read stories independently and then retell the stories in their own words both orally and in writing. They compare and contrast information on a single topic or theme across different texts and select, create, and use graphic organizers to interpret textual information. They continue their study of words and vocabulary as they read a variety of genres and demonstrate their comprehension through discussions, assessments, activities, and projects. Students read and comment critically on information sources such as news items, magazine articles, and advertisements while they identify different informational text structures. Students write in a variety of text forms and understand which forms are more appropriate for their purposes. Using their listening and viewing skills, students identify important information and document it in note form. They share their ideas, thoughts and information clearly and appropriately with others during a variety of speaking opportunities such as group discussions, storytelling, drama, and oral presentations.

**District Instructional Materials:** *Benchmark Advance* - ELA curriculum

*Lexia and IXL* - Online Learning Platforms

## Mathematics

Instructional time in fourth grade should focus on three critical areas: *Critical Area #1*: Developing an understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends as part of effectively and efficiently performing multi-digit arithmetic, *Critical Area #2*: Developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers, and *Critical Area #3*: Understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, and particular angle measures. The end of year expectation for fourth grade students is that they use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems; gain familiarity with factors and multiples; generate and analyze patterns; generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers less than or equal to 1,000,000; use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic with whole numbers less than or equal to 1,000,000; extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering limited to fractions with denominators 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 100; build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers limited to fractions with denominators 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 100. (Fractions need not be simplified); understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions limited to fractions with denominators 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 100; solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit (metric system); represent and interpret data; understand concepts of angle and measure angles; draw and identify lines and angles; and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles. Problem solving with an emphasis on writing explanations is another focus.

**District Instructional Materials:** *Eureka* - Math curriculum

*Zearn, Reflex, Frax and IXL* - Online Learning Platforms

## Social Studies

### Ohio in the United States

The fourth grade year focuses on the early development of Ohio and the United States. Students learn about the history, geography, government, and economy of their state and nation. Foundations of U.S. history are laid as students study prehistoric Ohio cultures, early American life, the U.S. Constitution, and the development and growth of Ohio and the United States. Students begin to understand how ideas and events from the past have shaped Ohio and the United States today.

## Science

The fourth grade science theme focuses on interconnections within systems. This theme focuses on helping students recognize the components of various systems and then investigate dynamic and sustainable relationships within systems using scientific inquiry. The Earth Science portion of the class will focus upon the variety of processes that shape and reshape Earth's surface. The Physical Science portion will focus on the conservation of matter and the processes of energy transfer and transformation, especially as they relate to heat and electrical energy. The Life Science portion of the class will focus on using fossil evidence and living organisms to observe that suitable habits depend upon a combination of biotic and abiotic factors.

## Synergy

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Fourth grade students will delve deeper into a standards based topic of choice. They will research and present their findings with their group. Fourth grade students will use the portrait of a graduate and 3D printing skills while working with first grade buddies. Through collaboration the fourth graders will design a bubble wand for their buddy using TinkerCAD. Also in STEM, students will work with a green screen, Squishy Circuits, coding and complete design challenges. Students will work on their keyboarding skills in Typing Club and improve their knowledge of Google Apps, Drive, bookmarks and extensions. Students will learn safe and appropriate use of the internet and how to be good digital citizens. Students will be exposed to a variety of print library books as well as digital and audio books through the use of SORA.

## Visual Arts

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The fourth graders employ value and color to create positive and negative spaces in their artwork. They will explore the elements of art to create different spatial effects in artwork. They will be introduced to each principle of design in artwork across various media. Using problem solving through art experiences, students will gain flexible and critical thinking skills. Students will also use three-dimensional effects and color theory to give a well rounded expression of three-dimensional space in their artwork.

## Music

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Students in fourth grade will be creating, performing, and responding to music and connecting music to other subject areas. Fourth graders explore music through listening, singing, dancing, moving and playing instruments in a variety of musical settings. The primary focus of fourth grade music is to sing in tune, demonstrate more complex rhythms and pitches, and read and write standard notation. Fourth graders also study the four families of western instruments, as well as composers from various historical periods of music. Classroom instrument playing may include ukuleles, spoons, recorders, boomwhackers, tambourines, rhythm sticks, hand drums, egg shakers, jingle bells, maracas, xylophones and triangles.

## Physical Education

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During the fourth grade year, time is spent on class procedures, fitness concepts, and units that stretch over multiple class periods. Students in fourth grade participate in experiences that lead to development within the physical, cognitive, and affective domains. The physical domain focuses on movement skills, manipulative skills, and fitness. The cognitive domain enables students to start to understand and apply game strategy, develop concept knowledge, and to continue to refine critical elements of skill performance. Within the affective domain students learn about the importance of being active and being a good sport. The overarching goal is to continue to inspire an appreciation for an active lifestyle.

## Communication with Parents

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The Learning Platform used for fourth grade is Schoology. Schoology is an online classroom where students interact with content, share and collaborate. Parents can use the platform to see student assignments and the learning that is happening in the classroom.

Infinite Campus is the student information system that is used across the district. Performance on assessments and classwork along with report cards will be housed in this system.

## District and State Testing

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Three times a year students will take the STAR Reading and STAR Math computer-adaptive assessments. STAR Reading is a comprehensive assessment that provides insights needed to guide literacy growth for emergent readers, struggling readers and high achievers. STAR Math assesses students' math skills over multiple domains.

Students will take the [Ohio State Tests](#) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) will be administered to all fourth graders as a gifted and talented screener. The assessment is a multiple-choice K-12 assessment that measures reasoning skills with different types of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal questions. To learn more about gifted testing please visit Mayfield City Schools website [gifted](#) page.

## Resources

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*For additional information regarding our curriculum and programs, please refer to the following resources:*

**Mayfield City Schools Website:** <https://www.mayfieldschools.org/>

**Ohio Department of Education Website:** <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/>