

A Quick Reference Guide to Fourth Grade at Hopewell Area School District Elementary Schools



Welcome to Fourth Grade!

The fourth grade program opens the door to learning, and further stimulates the child's mind. Our primary goal is to guide and encourage each child to explore, discover, observe, manipulate, express, and experiment with the avenues of learning. We encourage fourth graders to become independent learners which will help them for a lifetime of learning.

Language Arts

The Hopewell Area School District has adopted Harcourt Trophies as the reading/language arts program for our Kindergarten through Grade 4 students. This language arts program incorporates reading, writing, spelling and grammar, and is comprised of all of the essential learning tools that students need to become literate adults. As the students progress into Grades 3-4, the focus shifts toward reading to learn. Various types of genres add interest, while helping students to read fluently, increase vocabulary development, and use strategies to improve reading comprehension. Besides learning to read, good writing and grammar skills are key components of the program. Students are given extensive instruction, guidance, and cumulative practice until they can read and write independently.

Everyday Mathematics

The philosophy of the Everyday Math program is to enable children in elementary grades to learn more mathematical content and become life-long mathematical thinkers. The key components of the Everyday Math program are to solve problems using everyday situations, develop concepts through hands-on explorations and activities, practice through games, and provide ongoing cumulative review of skills previously taught. Our focus is to build on and reinforce previously learned skills. Fourth grade math instructs students in skills that are necessary to apply mathematical concepts to everyday situations. We focus on geometry, computation, problem solving, logical reasoning, probability, and application.

Science

The goal of the fourth grade science program is to ignite a natural curiosity in our students in the scientific world and relate it to their everyday life. We study both Earth and Life Sciences. The classes involve many hands-on activities to aid learning and comprehension. Some of the concepts that we explore are animal and plant adaptations, ecology, nutrition and digestion, and electricity.

Social Studies

Our fourth grade social studies program will broaden our students' awareness of the uniqueness of our country's history, geographic features, and cultural heritage, as well as global exploration of countries around the world. In developing students' appreciation and understanding of good citizenship, we explore our government's Constitution and its structure. We also take an in-depth look at Pennsylvania, our home state.

Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is to practice and reinforce daily learning. Students will have homework in each subject area. The students are expected to maintain a daily planner to record all homework assignments. It is the responsibility of each student to satisfactorily complete and return all assignments on time. Our emphasis is on **first, best effort**. Students are responsible for making up all work due to absences in a timely fashion.

Music

The students in fourth grade sing songs, enjoy listening selections and continue to read music through notation, create percussion accompaniments with rhythm

instruments, and sing the scale using syllables. They use different dynamic levels in unison or two-part singing, and explore movement. The students sing songs related to special holidays. They demonstrate their musical talents at special performances throughout the year. The students study and develop music that can form a foundation for a lifelong interest in Music.

Physical Education

Students will learn to use basic and sport-specific skills for a variety of physical activities such as basketball chest pass, soccer and hockey dribble, volleyball serve, and fielding skills for kickball. Students will also use mature form and appropriate sequence in combination with loco-motor object control and rhythmical skills. These skills are components of selected modified games, sports, and dances. Students will learn to combine running, stopping, throwing, shooting, and kicking. Students begin using strategies for invasion games and mature forms in balance activities on a variety of apparatus.

Library

Students in fourth grade use the library each week to find books for leisure reading and for classroom projects. They continue to learn about the arrangement of books in the library, both fiction and non-fiction. Children are introduced to a number of

authors through the author's books and some biographical information. A short research project requiring use of the on-line catalog is done in conjunction with the classroom teacher.

Art

Students learn to perceive and describe subtle visual qualities such as lines, colors, shapes, textures, and patterns in a natural or constructed environment. They learn to portray details in 2-d and 3-d art forms. The concept of living with art is developed in lessons on crafts, architecture, and other related art. Students begin to use formal terms to describe and interpret visual qualities of art work.

