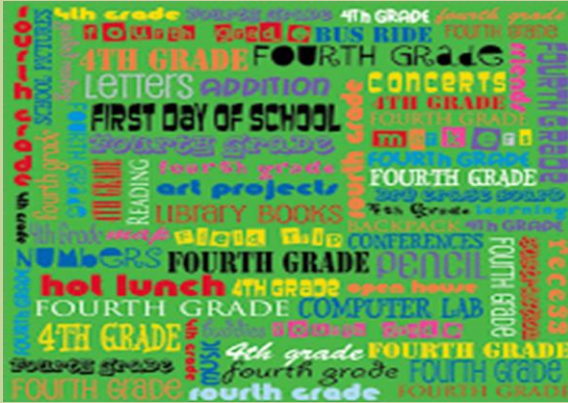




[ACADEMICS]



“Welcome to 4th Grade”

Dear 4th Grade Families,

We want to welcome you and your child to 4th grade. We have a fun and amazing year planned.

4th grade will have P.E. three days a week with Mrs. Webster on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**. Please make sure your child wears appropriate P.E. clothing on these days.

Also on Fridays, students will be taking part in specialty rotations. These include: music, science lab, P.E., and Library.

Our 4th grade team is excited that we once again are able to offer the opportunity for monthly animal and conservation visits, as well as Behind-the-Scenes tours at the Safari Park.

Parent conferences will be held the week of October 16th-20th. Please look out for time slots in the next few weeks.

Please remember if you have any questions, don't hesitate to email or call.

Mr. Perez and Ms. Bronson

Math: We will continue to use Engage NY. The curriculum was developed by the New York State Department of Education and includes the implementation of Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Students will start working with module 1: Topic A - Place Value of Multi Digit Numbers.

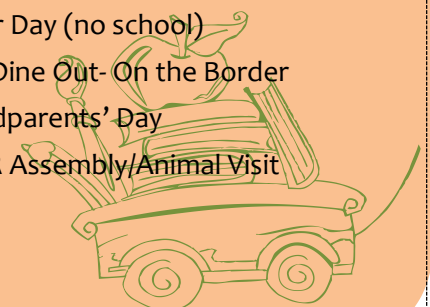
Language Arts: This year K-5 will pilot Journeys a K-6 comprehensive, research-based English Language Arts program. Students will be reading a realistic fiction selection, **Because of Winn-Dixie**. Students will work on prefixes (re-, un-, dis-), story structure (characters, setting and plot), and summarization (important parts in your own words).

Science: This month students will explore how energy makes things go, from powering vehicles to moving one's body. Students will experiment with rubber band racers to discover the relationship between how much energy is stored in a material and how much is released.

Social Studies: Beginning our study of California, students will learn the geography of CA and complete a map showing the four different regions of in CA.

THE WEEKS AHEAD

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sep 7 th | Labor Day (no school) |
| Sep 14 th | PTO Dine Out- On the Border |
| Sep 15 th | Grandparents' Day |
| Sep 21 st | SOAR Assembly/Animal Visit |



4th Grade Academics: What To Expect

by Patti Ghezzi

The 4th grade curriculum is richer and deeper than that of previous grades because teachers spend less time emphasizing the basics of how to read and compute. It's also a year that teachers integrate subjects more seamlessly. Curriculum content varies by state and is generally available on your state's department of education website. (Find [state-level education data and contact information](#) online from the U.S. Department of Education.) Some local districts and schools may further supplement their state curriculum.

Project Planning

The purpose of the big project is to teach your child to work independently over time to achieve a goal. A long-term project requires creativity, critical thinking, and content knowledge. It will often integrate several subjects, such as language arts, math, and social studies or science. Projects may also require computer skills that appear sophisticated but are easily handled by today's tech-savvy students.

Parents can help their children with projects by being a sounding board for ideas, but you should resist the temptation to get heavily involved. It's OK if your child's project does not look as polished as some of the other students' work; the learning experience is what's important. Still, some kids will need their parents' help to break the larger project tasks into manageable parts and to gather supplies.

"A project need not be expensive," Matson says. "Encouraging students to be creative with resources found easily and cheaply in the community will help them get more out of the experience."

Written Skills, Oral Presentations

In language arts, students will read more difficult books and be expected to identify key elements of plot, setting, and character development. They'll be expected to do more independent reading and research and to be able to answer more challenging comprehension questions that require inference.

Written skills will involve longer sentences, more sophisticated vocabulary, and greater attention to spelling, grammar, and punctuation.



Many children still have sloppy handwriting at this age, and teachers may set higher expectations for students to work on writing legibly. Teachers may also place heavier emphasis on the thoughts expressed in writing—which means a nice, neat paper won't be enough to get a good grade. The student will need to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter and a logical thought process.

Students may be introduced to strategies in note-taking and other study skills that will serve them well in the future. Help by suggesting studying strategies or by quizzing your child questions on the night before a big test, for instance.

More Advanced Math Concepts

In math class, students will see more long division as well as multiplication of two- and three-digit numbers. It's important that your child doesn't fall behind because every lesson in the curriculum builds on the previous one. If your child starts to get lost, work with the teacher immediately to get your child caught up.

Social Studies and U.S. Government

In many states, the 4th grade curriculum is heavy on U.S. government, with students learning about the three branches. They may also study U.S. and state geography as well as state history. You can help your child by encouraging a love of history and discussing current events at home.

Science Makes Connection

The 4th grade curriculum will likely emphasize the relevance of science, encouraging students to analyze, predict, and observe. Today's science is "problem-based and more student-centered," Rose says, adding that kids at this age want to relate to what they're learning. "Real-world issues like the environment help students see the why in science," he says. "They can learn about the environment and see its connection to something like asthma and understand how it connects to them."

