

Fourth Grade

- 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM (Extended Day available until 6:00 PM)
- Number of classes: 2
- Class size: Maximum 20
- Two teachers, one teaching associate
- Specialist instruction in art, drama, library, music, PE, Spanish, science, robotics, and technology

FOURTH GRADE HIGHLIGHTS

- Portrait of a Whole Person Project
- World Religions study
- Food Truck Project

In fourth grade, students continue to grow in independence, responsibility, confidence, and open-mindedness. They are encouraged to further develop positive feelings about themselves and their own ideas, as well as to respect the ideas and differences of others. In a cooperative atmosphere, students have opportunities to explore information, to think critically, and to make decisions based on learned information. Subjects are integrated, when possible, by combining academic areas and the arts to focus on concepts and specific areas of study in greater depth. Students work in groups or individually and are expected to develop negotiation skills, self-motivation, efficient time management, and organizational skills. Sustainability and technology are integrated in various curriculum areas.

Language Arts • Students in fourth grade are in a new stage of reading and learning. This stage can be categorized as reading and learning for life, a stage in which students begin to acquire and apply a full and complex range of lifelong language and literacy skills. From fourth grade on, students must be able to recognize increasingly complex words accurately and automatically in grade-level text and materials ranging from classical literature to online information. They must also develop their vocabulary knowledge and skills in more sophisticated ways, including through their own research and by reading informational texts.



Fourth graders will grow as **readers** by:

- Developing word analysis skills, including prefix, suffix, root words, including identifying the meaning of and using Greek and Latin prefixes, suffixes and roots
- Expanding vocabulary using context, parts of speech, synonyms, antonyms, dictionary skills, meanings of prefixes and suffixes, and idioms
- Identifying details of main idea or theme
- Actively engaging in peer-led literature circles
- Making inferences and predictions
- Understanding literary elements such as genres, plot, character, and setting
- Understanding similes, metaphors, and exaggeration
- Using skills of skimming, scanning, summarizing, and identifying cause and effect
- Developing research skills including use of the table of contents, index, and sources such as the atlas, encyclopedia, textbooks, and the Internet
- Recognizing fact and opinion

Fourth graders will grow as **writers** by:

- Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and opinions
- Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using descriptive details and clear event sequences
- Developing and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing
- Using technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing
- Organizing thoughts into a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Using transitional sentences and phrases to connect ideas
- Applying conventions of spelling, grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing
- Developing fluent and legible cursive handwriting
- Developing word processing skills including typing, formatting, and layout

Math • Fourth grade math is designed to provide a rich variety of cognitively appropriate strategies and resources so that all students have opportunities to experience both success and challenge. Teachers will vary the level and pace of instruction to meet the students' needs. Our primary math text is EnVision math, but manipulative materials, projects, activities, and games are also used to enhance conceptual learning.

Fourth graders will grow as **mathematicians** by exploring these areas:

- Identifying place value of whole numbers to millions
- Examining the relationship between decimal and fraction
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers and decimals
- Simplifying fractions
- Practicing quick methods of recall for basic math facts
- Recognizing and predicting patterns
- Solving simple algebraic equations with unknowns
- Identifying polygons and circles, and 3-D shapes
- Using coordinates
- Identifying parallel and perpendicular lines
- Recognizing, measuring, and classifying angles and producing line and rotational symmetry
- Designing and analyzing transformations through tessellations
- Constructing circles and some polygons using a compass
- Calculating area, perimeter, and volume
- Measuring money, length, area, volume, weight, capacity, and temperature (metric and standard)
- Creating and understanding graphs, tables, line plots, and charts
- Recognizing probabilities and predicting outlines
- Identifying minimum, maximum, and range

History, Geography, Civics, Economics • Fourth graders learn about the history or the disability rights movement in the US, study five major religions, examine the economic impact of salmon in the Northwest, and explore the history of Washington State's water law and Seattle's water system. Students will discuss current events, including local, national, and international news; use the democratic process to solve problems and make decisions in the classroom; consider issues of civil rights, citizen responsibilities, and social justice; and discuss how to improve accessibility in schools and communities. The Food Truck Project involves creating a business plan, understanding profit and loss, pitching their model, and presenting to their peers.

Social-Emotional Learning • Fourth graders learn about verbal communication skills, or what you say and how you say it, and nonverbal communication such as body posture, facial expression, and eye contact. They learn to cooperate by working together with others as a team to accomplish a goal and understanding empathy, self-regulation, impulse control, and how to make and keep relationships by knowing when and how to work and play with others.

Specialist Classes • Fourth graders also learn from their specialist teachers in the areas of art, drama, library, music, PE, science, robotics, technology, and Spanish.

