



Family Road Map

Fourth Grade

An overview of your child's academic, social and emotional growth, courtesy of Burlington Elementary School

Academic Top 5

Here are some of the things that students learn during the fourth grade year. If you would like more details, contact your child's teacher.

1. **Math:** Double digit multiplication and long division, fractions, factors, prime/composite, customary/metric measure.
2. **Reading:** Fluency, comprehension (understanding what is read) and summarization skills. Greek mythology is a favorite part of the curriculum, as well.
3. **Social Studies:** Geography and culture of the United States, traveling through the country's regions. Fourth graders also learn about Kansas history, the Constitution and the rights it gives us, and follow that up in the spring with a visit to the Capital building.
4. **Science:** Functions of plant and animal structures, changing rocks and the transfer of energy.
5. **Writing:** Students learn and practice writing styles, to a variety of audiences with various purposes. Some is through handwriting and some is technology based and/or enhanced.

Cool Things About 4th Grade

Fourth graders are unique! Here are a few of the many things that make this age special . . .

- Fourth graders are very expressive and love to talk, explain, negotiate & tell stories about something they have seen, heard, or read about. Fourth graders change classes and will have all fourth grade teachers.
- Students at this age are likely feeling pressure from increasing academic expectations. Let us know if anxiety brings more serious warning signs, such as inability to sleep/sleeping too much, sudden changes in eating habits or concentration, risky behaviors or no interest in school, friend or activities. We can help!

Social Emotional Skills & Behavior

Here are some the developmental skills and phases that are typical at this age:

- Most fourth graders enjoy being a part of a group, club, and/or team. They are becoming more self-conscious and tend to pay close attention to conforming to their peers in styles of dress and speech. They may begin to notice romantic interests.
- An ounce of encouragement – or an ounce of criticism – is greatly magnified by fourth graders. They also have a tendency to be self-critical and benefit greatly from gentle, consistent encouragement and reminders that all people have individual strengths and challenges.
- Fourth graders typically have a strong sense of right/wrong and fairness – “unfair” situations can be upsetting. They are becoming better at resolving social disagreements and solving problems in general.
- Healthy bodies make for healthy minds, and parents are the biggest influence on kids' decisions. Take time to explain your expectations about tobacco, alcohol and drug use, and touch base now and then to keep the lines of communication open.

Questions

If you have questions, or believe your child might benefit from more support in any area of learning and growth, here are some resources:

- Your student's teacher is a great first checkpoint if you have questions or concerns about academic progress or experiences at school.
- Our school principal is a good resource if you have concerns or questions about your child that extend beyond the classroom or aren't able to be resolved with your child's teacher.
- If your student seems to be struggling with social and emotional skills or is going through a stressful time with family or friends, our social workers (Crosswinds), or school counselors can help. You can reach these professionals by calling the school office.

TIPS for Parents of fourth graders

- Check in with students about their day with academics, friends & activities.
- Establish a “set” time and place.
 - “Set time” for any work not finished at school, “set place” for book bag and other school related materials. A “set time” for going through Friday folders. “Set time” for reading, practicing multiplication facts, science projects, etc. A set routine really helps out parents and students to stay organized, build study skills, and establish behaviors.
- Sign up for email in grade viewer to help track students grades and due dates.