

Grade 4 Level Benchmarks *continued*

Library/Media Skills

The goal of the Library Program in fourth grade is to work collaboratively with classroom teachers to integrate library/information literacy skills into the classroom curriculum.

In fourth grade students will:

- Continue to connect information from personal experiences to new information and recognize how new information is related to prior knowledge or experience
- Develop the understanding of seeking and locating information related to academic, personal and real world pursuits by exploring a variety of media for reading, listening and viewing purposes
- Make connections across works of literature, arts and technology
- Develop the ability to seek information from diverse points of view, genres, and formats as well as learn how to evaluate information for fact, opinion, point of view, bias, and authority
- Use reading and thinking strategies to comprehend information and construct meaning
- Develop a basic knowledge of how to extract and record relevant data to restate information and recognize when additional or alternative resources are needed
- Develop and formulate preliminary questions and ideas to focus on an information problem or task
- Develop a plan for problem solving including alternate courses of action
- Continue to employ a variety of strategies to communicate effectively for different purposes (writing, speaking, presenting through technology)

Art

The 4th grade art program works diligently to reinforce the Elements of Design: shape, texture, color, line, value, shape & form: concepts that were introduced in their primary art classes. Students are also challenged to incorporate the Principles of Design (contrast, rhythm, unity, balance, pattern, movement & emphasis) in their work. Art classes are considered a valuable part of a well rounded education. These classes will better prepare children for their secondary credit courses.

A few areas that are concentrated on: drawing, collage, painting, printmaking & sculpture centered on interdisciplinary connections, multicultural themes and/or art history lessons

Music

The study of music is a vital part of our total education. Instruction will provide opportunities for children to enjoy themselves while engaging in various musical experiences. Music objectives focus on:

- **Singing**
 - Pitch Recognition
 - Vocal technique and Expression
 - Repertoire
- **Aural Perception**
 - Develop pitch and rhythm perceptionStudents will:
 - Be able to distinguish between one and two part harmony
 - Be able to distinguish between major and minor
- **Music Notation Reading**
- **Rhythm**
 - Rhythmic Exercises in 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, and 6/8, counting as performing
- **Listening**
Students will:
 - Listen to varied musical styles, American composers
 - Identify by sight and sound the instruments of the orchestra
- **Music Vocabulary**
- **Band**
Student will be able to:
 - Assemble and produce a characteristic sound on their instrument
 - Read half, whole, quarter, & eighth note rhythms
 - Play an appropriate range on the instrument
 - Perform simple songs as solos

2009-2010 HUDSON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Grade 4 Level Benchmarks

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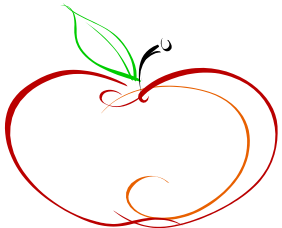
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Dear Parents,

This document provides you with a preview of the skills, knowledge, and concepts that are at the core of learning for this grade level. It also gives you a snapshot of what school life is like in Grade 4. "Benchmark" is a word used to identify target skills we seek to focus on and to develop in a particular year.

Teachers seek an active partnership with parents. Your involvement is critical to your child's success in school. Each teacher combines individual creativity with district wide goals. Different teaching strategies will be used in the instruction of these skills and concepts.

Please make opportunities to reinforce the skills developed in Grade 4 in your home. We invite you to meet with your child's teachers so that you will understand how you can reinforce what is taught in your child's classroom.



Grade 4 Level Benchmarks

Typical Day The fourth grader's typical day is a busy one. During a routine day, children will spend 2 1/2 to 3 hours on language arts (reading, spelling, writing) and approximately one hour on math. Science and social studies and health are taught throughout the day and incorporated into language arts through themes. Additionally, students have physical education every other day. Specials are run on a trimester schedule where students attend either computer, art or music everyday for the trimester. Some students participate in instrumental lessons on a weekly basis. Please contact the teacher for the specific times and routines of the week.

Language Arts Philosophy

It is our belief that all teachers are language arts teachers. Reading, writing, listening and speaking are integrated into all areas of the curriculum.

Reading-

- recall knowledge
- preview and analyze
- set a purpose for reading
- monitor reading for meaning and self-correcting
- use context clues to construct meaning
- draw conclusions
- make inferences
- predict outcomes
- identify cause and effect
- compare and contrast ideas
- relate text to personal experiences
- make connections
- distinguish between fact and opinion
- engage in independent silent reading
- read a variety of genres
 - nonfiction
 - fiction
 - poetry
- understanding of story elements
- maintain a personal reading list
- solve unknown words through decoding
- vocabulary-word meanings

Writing-

- Understand and apply the writing process (pre-writing, planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing)
- write descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, poetry
- write for a variety of purposes and audiences
- apply editing skills (spelling, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation)
- develop research and reference skills
- recognize and employ techniques of good writers (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions)

Speaking and Listening-

- Construct meaning from information presented orally
- Express ideas clearly
- Contribute relevant thoughts to a discussion
- Create and deliver oral presentations

Wellness

Our Physical Education and Health program is fully integrated and follows national and state standards. It provides sequential and progressive opportunities for the development of motor skills, physical fitness, team building and responsible decision-making. Students will recognize the benefits and see the value of physical activities and responsible decisions toward a healthful lifestyle activity.

The following concepts are reviewed and enhanced:

Health

- Social Skills
- Growth and development
- Nutrition

Physical

- Body and spatial awareness
- Jumping and landing
- Chasing, dodging and fleeing
- Rolling
- Balancing and weight transfer
- Dribbling with hands and feet
- Kicking and punting
- Throwing and catching
- Volleying
- Striking
- Fitness

Math

- Students in 4th grade move from using concrete objects and models to developing abstract thinking for problem solving and learning new concepts
- Students apply problem solving strategies and solve multiple step word problems
- Students continue to build fluency with math operations (facts)
- Students deepen their understanding of place value, estimation, fractions, multiplication and division
- Students extend knowledge of patterning, graphing, measurement, geometry, time and money
- Specialized math vocabulary is practiced and implemented in classroom lessons/discussions
- Students interpret and make predictions using data represented on graphs, charts and tables

Social Studies

- New York State Waterways
- Natural Resources Geography
- Native Americans
- Explorers
- Early Colonies
- American Revolution
- From Colony to State
- Civil War
- Immigration
- Government

Computer Education

- Review the parts of the computer and how to use the computer properly
- Each part of the computer and its respective function
- How to sign on to the Hudson City School District network
- Home Row Keyboarding
- United States QWERTY typing standard
- Autobiography research project
- Access internet website
- Learn how to search for important information
- Transfer information into own words
- Review introduction, body, and conclusion format
- Insert Clipart
- Bibliography
- Poem (type determined with input from classroom teacher)
- Formatting using Microsoft WORD
- Fundamentals of poem writing

Science

- Matter
- Energy
- Electricity
- Magnets
- Sound and Light
- Objects in Motion
- Simple machines

Homework

Teachers assign homework for a variety of purposes:

- to practice and reinforce skills
- extend and apply previously learned skills
- integrate skills
- establish responsibility

