

Language Arts

The 3-5 Language Arts program has been divided into daily components:

- Reading Aloud
- Guided Reading
- Writing as a Process (modeled, shared, guided & independent writing)
- Spelling



Students will:

- Use strategies to construct and convey meaning
- Explain author's use of appendices, three levels of subheadings, keys, legends, figures, bibliographies
- Identify characters' thoughts, motivations and the role of the narrator
- Explain author's use of literary devices (flash forward / backward, red herring)
- Draft a piece of writing (autobiography, biography, legend or mystery) using a minimum of four connected paragraphs
- Write a business letter to an organization
- Write a mystery, legend or adventure story
- Write a descriptive essay using an appropriate organization pattern
- Use bold face / italic print and three levels of subheadings to support understanding of central, key and supporting ideas
- Learn test-taking strategies
- Spell words correctly including grade-level appropriate sight and high frequency words
- Create complex sentences
- Read independently and fluently at grade level

Mathematics

The fourth grade math curriculum builds upon many concepts taught in previous grades. At the same time, new concepts are introduced. As in all grades, problem-solving should be part of everyday mathematics instruction. By allowing students to use manipulatives, make drawings, and finally, use symbols (numbers) to learn the skills described, each fourth grade student will be prepared to progress to the fifth grade curriculum.

Units of study include:

- Problem Solving
- Math Connections
- Reasoning
- Communication
- Estimation
- Patterns and Relationships
- Statistics and Probability
- Whole Number and Mental Computation
- Whole Number Operations
- Measurement
- Number Sense
- Fractions and Decimals
- Geometry

A graphic showing a large number '510784.36' above a division symbol, with '2.719372' below it. To the right, a smaller graphic shows '9 ÷ 1'.

Science

The fourth grade science curriculum investigates topics in each of the three science disciplines: life, earth and physical science. Instructional emphasis includes discovery and inquiry-based learning, informational reading, experimental design, and reflective writing.

Students will use a variety of resources and skills to explore:

- Magnetism
- Electrical Circuits (system design, safety)
- Land and Water (formations, erosion)
- Animals (food chains, physical and behavioral characteristics)



Health

The fourth grade health curriculum continues the emphasis on acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to developing a healthy lifestyle.

Students will:

- Learn about nutrition labels
- Learn about the immune system
- Develop basic knowledge about chemical dependency
- Understand the roles of nutrients
- Learn about recommended servings
- Develop skills for healthy eating habits

Social Studies

The fourth grade social studies curriculum introduces students to the history, geography, economy and government of Michigan from statehood to present.

Units of study include:

- Michigan History, Life in New State
- Michigan History, Michigan and the Civil War
- Michigan History, Michigan and the New Century
- Contemporary Michigan Government and Public Issues
- Geographical Regions of the United States

Art

The fourth grade art curriculum engages the student in the process of inquiry and self-discovery, while continuing the emphasis on imagination and personal experience.

Students will:

- Study the artist Escher, and the art of the Egyptians
- Learn to detect more subtle visual qualities in their own artwork as well as reproductions
- Use art vocabulary in discussions
- Learn to differentiate between opinion, fact and accepting others' opinions on art
- Expand their knowledge of artists, and contemplate why people create artwork
- Plan the use of visual qualities to express an idea, feeling or non-verbal message
- Use familiar media in new ways to develop flexibility and problem-solving



Technology

Our elementary schools incorporate technology into all areas of the curriculum. Students are introduced to word processing, and engage in projects such as book reviews, class newspapers, book publishing, research, multimedia projects, desktop publishing and telecommunications with children in other schools via on-line resources.

Areas of study include:

- Keyboarding
- Word Processing
- Network Programs
- Multimedia



General Music

Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of music.

Students will:

- Compose and improvise using voice, instruments and movement
- Demonstrate a competency in music reading, notation and aural skills
- Analyze, evaluate and describe music
- Perform in groups and respond to cues from a conductor
- Learn about various composers and cultures to broaden their knowledge and understanding (Beethoven, Saint-Saëns, Chopin, and Japanese music)
- Incorporate music and technology



Physical Education

The physical education curriculum provides the programs, activities, and instruction necessary to develop healthy, lifelong, responsible citizens.

Students will:

- Continue to develop muscular flexibility, strength and cardiovascular endurance
- Perform various locomotor skills (walking, running, jumping, hopping, galloping, skipping)
- Learn creative and rhythmic movement
- Perform selected tumbling skills and use gymnastics equipment
- Learn to throw and catch
- Learn to play basketball and soccer
- Use sports equipment
- Learn game rules
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship

Oxford Community Schools

Curriculum Guide



Information for Parents

This guide is intended as a brief overview. For more complete information about the Oxford Community Schools' curriculum, please visit our district website at:

<http://www.oxfordschools.org>

