



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

Grade 4

The Ellington Public Schools elementary curriculum is designed to enhance children's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development, while supporting students in acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.



Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.

MATHEMATICS

The mathematics program maintains a balance in the development of math concepts, basic skills and problem solving strategies. In fourth grade students become competent problem solvers who compute, communicate, and reason mathematically. Students learn how to identify alternate forms of expressing whole numbers, develop fluency with basic multiplication and division facts, and build their understanding of fractions. The Bridges in Mathematics program is used as a resource.



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

LANGUAGE ARTS

Our fourth grade language arts curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and continues to spiral the skills students need in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We approach the teaching of literacy through a balanced approach that supports students through reading, workshop, writing workshop, word study, and small-group instruction.

READING

In fourth grade students will work to build their reading stamina, vocabulary, and reading skills in order to read more challenging fiction, nonfiction and other materials. Students are supported through explicit instruction using mentor texts and taught to transfer close reading practices to their independent reading. As readers, they will be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read using important details from the text.

WRITING

Our fourth grade writing curriculum allows for students to progress through the stages of writing to produce more than one piece of writing per unit of study. This provides students multiple opportunities to work on and improve their writing skills in narrative, opinion, and information writing. Fourth graders will learn to organize their ideas with reasons, facts, and details as they write summaries, personal essays, persuasive essays, and reports.

WORD STUDY

Students will build their vocabulary as they read a range of texts and through word study, especially the study of synonyms and antonyms of words. Spelling instruction is also provided to support students in learning word patterns, high frequency words, and commonly misspelled words.



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

KEY FOURTH GRADE LITERACY SKILLS

- Determine the theme in a story or poem;
- Compare ideas, characters, events and settings in text using specific details;
- Pay attention to key features of informational texts, including explaining how the author uses facts and evidence to support his or her ideas;
- Introduce a topic clearly in writing, develop the topic with facts, and provide a concluding statement, while using complete sentences and correct spelling.

SCIENCE

In fourth grade, students work toward formulating explanations to questions about the natural world such as "What are waves and what are some of the things they can do?", "What is energy and how is it related to motion?", "How can energy be used to solve a problem?" and "How do internal and external structures sustain and support life?". Through various activities, explorations, and interactions, students will begin to build their understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students study the United States by exploring the diverse history, geography, civics, and economics of the various regions. Our fourth grade units include: Defining the Regions Across the U.S., Movement of People and Ideas, and the Human-Environment Interaction. Students practice research, reading, writing, and speaking skills as part of the inquiry cycle in social studies.

MUSIC

The music program develops an appreciation for various styles of music and teaches listening and performing skills. The students study music history, theory, and the families of instruments. Fourth graders are encouraged to participate in chorus, which encourages good vocal production while singing in a larger group. The group meets once a week and performs at least two concerts each year.



Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

ART

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media. Content is based on art appreciation, art history, art criticism, and art creation.

Physical Education

The physical education program engages students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences, activities, and sports that enable them to learn about themselves and their world.

HEALTH

In health students review that personal wellness has six dimensions: physical, emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and environmental. Students will practice effective communication skills as they review the human body systems and decision-making skills related to nutrition and drug-free lifestyles.

K-6 Digital Tools Log-in & User Support

[Click here for our family resource for logging into EPS Digital Tools and getting started using various tools](#)