

## 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.

## HOMEWORK

Ellington Public Schools defines “homework” as independent practice and learning that happens outside the classroom. Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis, in addition to any other homework assigned. In fourth grade the expected length of time for independent reading is 20-30 minutes each day, or 100-150 minutes across a week. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time each day for reading.

Students in grade 4 may also be expected to complete other independent practice assignments and long term projects in addition to daily reading. Other independent practice assignments and work on long term projects should not exceed an average of 10-15 minutes daily. Some students may require less or more time than that which is indicated for a grade level. Teachers are not expected to assign homework every day.

## TESTING

Students participate in standardized testing as required by state and federal guidelines. In fourth grade this would include Smarter Balanced Assessments for Literacy and Mathematics.

# 4



## Curriculum Guide for 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.

### KEY FOURTH GRADE MATH SKILLS

- Develop an understanding of and fluency with multi-digit multiplication and division (dividends);
- Develop an understanding of fraction equivalence;
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators;
- Multiply fractions by whole numbers;
- Analyze and classify geometric figures.

For more information about our curriculum, please visit our website:

[www.ellingtonpublicschools.org](http://www.ellingtonpublicschools.org)

## 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.

### 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 it 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.

## HANDWRITING

The Zaner-Bloser handwriting program is used. Students review upper and lower case cursive letters and mastery of these letters is expected.

## 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.

## 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.