

Fourth Grade Facts

2009-2010

Fourth Grade

CVE

825 Providence Road
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Mrs. Darlene Morrison

Principal

Mr. Christian Gromek

Assistant Principal

Fourth Grade Teachers

Ms. Bray

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Ms. Cuomo

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Mrs. Leis

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Clarence Jones, Sara Cuomo,
and Trish Ryan-Thiel

Faculty Representatives

Curriculum Expectations

Welcome

Fourth grade is departmentalized. This means that each teacher in fourth grade is responsible for a specific subject area. Ms. Cuomo teaches science, health, and social studies. Ms. Bray teaches math and Mrs. Leis teaches reading. Spelling, Grammar and Writing will be taught in homerooms by each teacher.

Language Arts

In Homerooms

The fourth grade language arts curriculum challenges our students to become more proficient and experienced users of oral and written language. The students will participate in *6 + 1 Writer's Workshops* to learn specific skills to apply to a wide variety of required compositions. By the end of the school year pupils will have drafted, revised, edited, and published personal narratives, descriptive writing, persuasive essays, research reports, and more! Oral interpretation and expression will be developed as students share their book reports that will be assigned quarterly.

Grammar will be taught throughout the year. Skill review sheets will be as-

signed as homework as the units are taught. Unit assessments are assigned by the homeroom teacher and may not coincide with the other classes.

Each Tuesday students will be assigned spelling words to learn in preparation for a test the following Tuesday. These words come from the Scholastic Spelling program. Daily homework assignment sheets will be given in homerooms Tuesday through Thursday. Mondays students will be expected to study and complete a written quiz with an adult in preparation for their test on Tuesday.

Reading

Mrs. Leis

Throughout the year, your child will be using various resources to read for literary experience, to be informed, and to perform given tasks. Fourth grade students will continue to use the Houghton Mifflin Reading program that was implemented in third grade. Students in the GT reading program will be working with the fifth grade anthology entitled *Expeditions*. GT students will also be reading assigned novels throughout the year. In addition to the readings, various projects will be assigned and com-

pleted in class. Our on grade level students will be reading from the fourth grade anthology entitled *Traditions*. These students will also take part in whole group reading of assigned chapter books and theme books. In addition to the Houghton Mifflin Anthologies, students will be keeping up with current events by reading the Scholastic News magazine. Students will be given opportunities to read books of their choice independently at school and be expected to do so each evening at home for at least 20 minutes.

Mathematics

Ms. Bray

Cromwell Valley will use the Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley math series. The use of manipulatives, technology, and skill building activities will help students develop their math skills.

Students will be responsible not only for displaying the correct answer, but also for explaining how they developed an answer. Math homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday evenings. These assignments will aid in the evaluation of each student's understanding of material along with classwork, quizzes, and tests.

Curriculum Expectations Continued



Science/Social Studies/Health

Ms. Cuomo

Science and social studies instruction will be taught each quarter. Health will be taught during the second and fourth quarters. The following is a breakdown of the science, social studies, and health curriculum:

1st Quarter

Science: Taking a Closer Look at Space, Fossil Detectives

Social Studies: Geography, Go Maryland

2nd Quarter

Science: Eco-Scouts

Social Studies: Early Americans

Health: Personal Health

3rd Quarter

Science: Too Hot to Handle (Science Fair), As a MATTER of Fact: A CSI Chemistry Unit

Social Studies: European Exploration

4th Quarter

Science: Electrifying Science

Social Studies: European Settlement

Health: Safety

Enrichment Program

The *Concept-Based Language Arts* and *Literacy Favorites* modules enrich and extend reading and language arts for students identified for Gifted and Talented Education and may be used in conjunction with the above grade level Hough-

ton Mifflin *Legacy for Literacy* themes and challenge books. Major works include: *Twenty-One Balloons*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins and Cousins*. In mathematics, students complete both the Grade 4 and Grade 5 mathematics content standards using curriculum compacting strategies. In science, students independently apply the experimental research design to investigate a problem. In social studies, the overarching concept of Systems is used to enrich and extend the grade level program. Students study the interrelationships of economics, social, political, and geographic systems in Maryland's early colonization period.



Technology

The Instructional Technology program helps students develop the skills they need to use the computer as a tool. Students use computers to find and use information, to solve problems, and to create products to communicate ideas. Students learn that technology is important at home, school, and at work. Ethical use of computers is also an important part of the program. Students in grade four should know and be able to:

- Use software to write, edit, save and print paragraphs and stories.
- Copy and paste text and graphics.
- Enter and edit information in a database.

- Organize information by creating computer-generated graphic organizers or tables.
- Create multimedia slides (text, graphics, sounds).
- Use bookmarks, links, and program buttons in Internet browser software.
- Perform simple searches in Internet browser software.
- Access, evaluate, and use online information to solve problems.



Report Cards

Report cards are sent home on a quarterly basis. The following dates mark the end of each marking period and distribution of report cards:

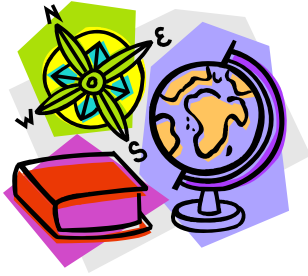
1st Quarter: November 5, 2009
Distribution: November 19, 2009
2nd Quarter: January 28, 2010
Distribution: February 11, 2010
3rd Quarter: April 16, 2010
Distribution: May 3, 2010
4th Quarter: TBD
Distribution: TBD

Conferences

Parents are encouraged to schedule a conference when concerns arise. Please contact the teacher who is responsible for the subject area of concern via email or with a written note and allow **2** days for the teacher to contact you with a meeting time.



Student Expectations



Grading

A variety of grading is used throughout the fourth grade. The following letter grades will be standard:

A = 90% - 100% Outstanding

B = 80% - 89% Very Good

C = 70% - 79% Satisfactory

D = 60% - 69% Needs Improvement

E = Below 60% Unsatisfactory

Checks are also used and have the following meanings:

√ + Outstanding

√ Satisfactory

√ - Needs Improvement



Homework

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday evenings. Students are responsible to write their assignments in their planners. It is the responsibility of the student to show an adult the planner each evening. Planners are extremely helpful in the communication between school and home. Students are expected to complete homework as-

signments neatly and accurately. Students will be required to redo any assignments that do not meet these expectations.

When students do not complete assignments by the due date, they will be given the **choice** to use recess time to complete missing homework, or they may complete their missed assignment that evening along with their current homework. Completed make-up work due to a poor choice is due the next day. Students will receive a zero for assignments not completed by the following day.

In addition, to daily assignments, there may be some long-term projects which students will need to work at home over some weekends. We encourage parents to help their child pace himself when these projects are assigned.

When students are out are sick, they will have the number of days absent, plus one additional day to complete any work missed.



Rewards and Consequences

Fourth graders are rewarded for appropriate behavior and participation with tickets. At the end of the week each homeroom teacher will conduct a drawing and reward the identified students. Along with earning tickets, fourth graders will be rewarded with a positive note and/or call home!

Inappropriate behavior will be handled on an individual basis based on the Baltimore County Public School Handbook. Some consequences may

include a structured recess in which the child walks and thinks about their poor choice(s) for 5 minutes, a note, and/or call home.



Study Skills

Some key study skill strategies that may help your child better prepare for projects, tests, and quizzes are the following:

- Write due dates for schoolwork on the calendar.
- Use a kitchen timer to set amount of time your child should stay on task.
- Have a regular time for schoolwork every day.
- Provide a comfortable and quiet setting.
- Let your child teach you the facts!

