



Student Success

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 4th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. It expands upon the key skills that are identified as performance indicators on the 4th grade checklist and report card. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined by these performance indicators, he or she will be well prepared for 5th grade.

Mathematics

Below are samples of what your child will be working on in 4th grade. **The two most important concepts are in bold.** The district expectations gradually increase as the year progresses.

- **Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements**
- **Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as $2 \frac{3}{4} - 1 \frac{1}{4}$ or $3 \times \frac{5}{8}$), and solving related word problems**
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as $\frac{62}{100}$)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying $1,638 \times 7$ or 24×17 , and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that $\frac{1}{4}$ is less than $\frac{3}{8}$ because $\frac{2}{8}$ is less than $\frac{3}{8}$)



English Language Arts/Literacy

Building the stamina and skills to read challenging fiction, nonfiction, and other materials is fundamental in 4th grade. Your child will continue to learn about the world, as well as build vocabulary skills by reading more complicated stories and poems from different cultures and a range of books on history, science, art, and music. Fourth grade students also will make important strides in their ability to explain plainly and in detail what a book says — both explicitly and what is implied from its details. By 4th grade, your child will be writing effective summaries, book reports, and descriptions of characters or events that use correct grammar and punctuation.

Below are samples of what your child will be working on in 4th grade:

- *Describing the basic elements of stories such as characters, events, and settings by drawing on specific details in the text*
- *Paying close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points*
- *Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories from different cultures*
- *Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples*
- *Independently conducting short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet*
- *Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details*
- *Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points*
- *Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling*
- *Relating words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)*
- *Using strategies to determine unknown words (e.g., context clues, multiple meaning words, Greek/Latin roots, reference materials)*

