

Grade 4

Course Descriptions

English Language Arts

The Grade 4 English course consists of three parts.

The first part covers grammar and its usage and mechanics in the categories of the Sentence, Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Capitalization and Punctuation, Pronouns, Adverbs, and Prepositions.

The second part focuses primarily on writing, but also gives opportunities to practice listening, speaking, and viewing. The writing skills focus on writing a personal narrative, a description, a story, instructions, a research report, to express an opinion, and to persuade. The writing process is explained step by step with a variety of clear examples.

The third part provides tools and tips for listening and speaking strategies, building vocabulary, research and study strategies, test-taking strategies, using technology, and spelling.

The Reading course follows the book of Journeys. It provides students with a diverse reading material from all literature genres such as realistic, fiction, informational text, biography, poetry, plays, tall tales, historical fiction, narrative nonfiction, fables, myths, folktales, fantasy, advertisements, and science fiction. It reinforces material from the English course and provides further writing practice.

Resource: English, *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Education*

Mathematics

The Grade 4 Mathematics program examines the concepts of place value; addition and subtraction of whole numbers to one million; multiplication by 1-digit and 2-digit numbers; division by 1-digit numbers; factors and multiples; fraction equivalence and comparison; addition and subtraction of fractions; multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; relating fractions and decimals; two-dimensional figures; angles; relative sizes of measurement units; and perimeter and area in algebra.

Resource – *Go Math, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

Social Studies

The Grade 4 Social Studies course is a comprehensive study of American Geography and History. The Geography covers the landforms, regions, bodies of water, climate and vegetation of the United States. The History extends from the times when the Americas

were populated by its earliest indigenous peoples, through their exploration and settlement by the Europeans and to the Indian tribes in the lands of today's USA. It then covers the history of the country from the time of the first colonies, the American Revolution and independence, the Constitution, the movement of the frontier west, the Civil War, industrial and population growth and development in the 20th c., and the USA's role in the modern world in the 21st c.

Resource – *Social Studies, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

Science

The Grade 4 Science course continues with the steps of the scientific method, the engineering design process and moves on to plants and animals, energy and ecosystems, the weather, earth and space, the properties of matter, the changes in matter, energy, electricity, and motion. Students will make experiments in the classroom which will help them visualize the concepts studied in the lesson. They will each be expected to make their own project in the Science Fair in which they should make an observation, make a hypothesis, perform an experiment by following a procedure, present their interpretation of the results, and draw a conclusion.

Resource – *Social Studies, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company*

Physical Education

The Physical Education in grade 4 stresses the application of motor skills and movement concepts to lifetime physical activities. Proficiency in basic movement forms will lead to enjoyment in more complex skills and activities. Students have developed mature loco motor, non-loco motor and manipulative skills. They begin to practice these skills to adapt and refine them to be used in a variety of specific situations, primarily, in sports and games.

Art

This course offers students an introduction to Visual Arts. Students will explore the creative process through studio projects (drawing, painting, composition, sculpture, fiber, graffiti, decoupage, collage, written work, art appreciation and art history). The elements and principles of art will be emphasized as they apply to each artist's style. Some art projects will be self-directed, fueled by the students' own interests with research in art history, cultures, modern and contemporary art.

Course objectives: The students will identify and create artwork based on the elements of art and principles of design, demonstrate through their artwork how to use the elements of art to show movement and express feelings, recognize, compare and use different media to create their artwork, develop a respect and appreciation for the artwork of

artists, including classmates' art, recognize and compare differences in several art mediums, create representational and abstract art, learn to create depth in 2-dimensional artwork using one point perspective, communicate thoughts, feelings and experiences to others through art, develop creative problem solving and higher-level thinking skills, learn about modern and contemporary art, develop critical thinking and imagination, understand terms that are basic to art media, procedures and techniques, as well as appreciation, maintain a sketchbook for a variety of drawings assignments to perfect their hand-eye ability and drawing skills.

Course topics: Fundamentals of Drawing and Composition, Elements of Art, Principles of Design, Art History and Art Criticism, Drawing, Color theory, Sculpture, Painting, Fibers, Graffiti, Decoupage, Collage.

Resource: *"The Visual Arts: A History"*, by Hugh Honour and John Fleming; *"The Art Teacher's Survival Guide for Elementary and Middle School"*, by Helen D. Hume; *"Children and their Art"*, by Michael Day and Al Hurwitz.

Music

The music class contains simplified instruction on the basics of music, such as melody, harmony, rhythm. The students will be introduced to different in style songs as they take part in performing in the school's musicals.

Course objectives:

Completing this course, students will develop:

- A. Self confidence in performing in front of audience.
- B. Better artistic expression and speaking skills.
- C. Intelligent listening and understanding of different musical forms.

Course requirements:

We understand that different students have different levels of artistic ability. The teacher will expect though that all students do their best and will grade each one not only according to their ability, but on their effort and participation in class as well.

Resource: *"Music Express "*, Collins

Spanish

The course introduces students to the effective learning of a new foreign language. The organization, sequencing and distribution of contents follow the policy established by the European Language Framework and the Curriculum Plan of Institute Cervantes. Both

documents represent the core of the concept and are applied to the School's context, and to the cognitive development and motivation of the students.

By the end of the course students are expected to develop skills corresponding to A1.2. Level, i.e. they will be able to present themselves, introduce a person, talk about his/her family, school, everyday life and express likes, dislikes and preferences. The methodology aims to develop the communicative competence of the learners and fosters their four language skills. It supposes a lot of active participation, sometimes it combines with cross-curricular techniques.