



FOURTH GRADE OVERVIEW

2010 / 2011 SCHOOL YEAR

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to fourth grade. It is a pivotal year for students in that they are expected to demonstrate the cumulative knowledge they have acquired throughout their elementary school years as well as to prepare for the increased demands of middle school.

The development of good work habits is necessary for success in 4th grade. Listening attentively, following directions, being prepared and organized with necessary supplies, completing assignments, and asking for needed assistance are daily team expectations.

Homework will be regularly assigned and must be completed on time. We encourage parents to take an active interest in their child's homework and help him/her return it to school. We provide each student with an assignment notebook and ask that you please sign this notebook every day.

We expect your child to be respectful and courteous to fellow students and adults. Cooperation, manners, compassion, and sharing are necessary in order to function well and learn best in a classroom situation. We look forward to working together to help all children become self-directed, responsible individuals.

Children benefit from knowing their parents and teachers communicate and share the same expectations for learning success. Parent conferences are held in November and March and serve to review and discuss your child's progress.

We look forward to sharing this dynamic year with your child.

English Language Arts (ELA)

The fourth grade ELA curriculum provides a balanced program of listening, speaking, reading, and writing instruction.

Students participate in a variety of learning experiences which include:

Reading

- Literature circles
- Guided reading
- Research projects
- Book reports
- Individual reading assignments
- Reading in the content areas
- Read alouds

Writing

- Response to literature
- Creative writing
- Expository writing
- Spelling, grammar, and cursive writing
- Writing in the content areas

Listening and speaking are embedded throughout the whole program.

The NYS ELA Assessment will be administered in May 2011.

MATH

All students will utilize the **THINK MATH** Mathematics program.

Students need to enter fourth grade with a secure knowledge of the basic addition, and subtraction facts. **Frequent Fact Tests** will be given to motivate students to maintain the District's mandate to be able to answer a minimum of 30 problems in one minute (addition, subtraction) and to reach mastery in multiplication and division of 25 problems in one minute.

The fourth grade curriculum includes:

- **Numeration**
- **Operations and Computation**
- **Data and Chance**
- **Geometry**
- **Measurement and Reference Frames**
- **Patterns, Functions, and Algebra**

The fourth grade students will be grouped to effectively meet their instructional needs. To create these groups, we will use information from the third grade NYS Math Assessment, input from the third grade teachers on math class performance, and a skills test, which will be given in September. Based on this information, students will be placed in an appropriate instructional group.

The NYS Math Assessment will be administered in May 2011.

SOCIAL STUDIES

For the first time in their elementary years, students take an historical approach to learning. Fourth graders learn about New York State's heritage, from the time of Native American civilizations through the 21st century. Throughout the year students' learning is enhanced by field trips, guest speakers, and full-day unit immersions. This heritage study culminates with an I Love New York project in June.

SCIENCE

Our science program emphasizes the scientific process in conjunction with hands on activities giving the students opportunities to question, hypothesize, experiment, record, and come to conclusions based on collected data. This process is used in our study of the following topics:

Life Science

Communities

Earth Science

Water Cycle & Weather
Conservation & Ecology

Physical Science

Forms of Energy
Simple Machines

We use a variety of materials (Elementary Science Program Kits, CD Rom programs, Science text books, websites, films, and special assemblies) to deliver instruction and reinforce concepts presented.

The NYS Science Assessment will be administered in 2011. This assessment consists of an objective test as well as a manipulative test.