

Fourth Grade Course Description

Overview for Parents

Teacher: Cynthia Williamson

Content Goals

Language Arts

In fourth grade the language arts program includes reading for comprehension (The Fourth Grade Core Knowledge Reader, Junior Great Books, and reading journal books), composition, grammar, spelling, Daily Oral Language (D.O.L.), and vocabulary (Word Voyages computer program).

- further develop comprehension strategies including
 1. visualization
 2. cause and effect
 3. monitor and clarify
 4. predict
 5. make connections
- make inferences from the text
- begin using evidence to support answers to questions
- expand written and expressive vocabulary
- develop editing and revising skills
- begin writing multi-paragraph pieces using topic paragraphs, transition sentences, and concluding paragraphs
- write in a variety of genres including; poetry, narrative, expository, descriptive, creative, and persuasive
- develop an understanding for the structure of the English language including:
 1. subjects and predicates
 2. compound subjects, predicates, and sentences
 3. direct objects
 4. subject complements
 5. action and being verb
 6. adverbs
 7. adjectives
 8. predicate expanders
 9. conjunctions
 10. pronouns
 11. prepositions
- review spelling rules and focus on spelling in context including the most commonly used words and the most frequently misspelled words in the English language

Math

Math in Focus and math journaling for 4th and 5th grade levels

- master computational skills — adding, subtracting multiplying, and dividing
- measurement
- measurement
- fractions, decimals, percent
- order of operations
- problem solving strategies
- geometry
- data analysis and probability
- algebra
- reasoning and proof

Geography

- major rivers and major mountain ranges of the seven continents
- latitude and longitude
- variety of types of maps
- geography terms
- geography and climate
- geography of Africa

New Hampshire Studies

- geography of New Hampshire
- government
- history
- important people

Core Virtues

For character education we use a program called Core Virtues. This program was created by our founding head at Crossroads, Mary Beth Klee. Every month we introduce a new virtue such as respect, loyalty, and gratitude. We bring these virtues to life through the oral reading and discussion of high quality literature, modeling, and self-reflection. Fourth Grade also includes a home/school component that includes families in the discussion of Core Virtues.

Expectations for Students

- arrive on time
- assume responsibility for work
- learn to use an assignment book
- turn work in on time and completed
- follow the classroom rules
- be respectful of other students and materials
- participate in each class

Homework Requirements

- 45 minutes to 1 hour each night
- reading response questions assigned on Thursday and due back on the following Wednesday
- math – every night
- writing – most writing is done in class
- vocabulary based on Latin and Greek roots with a lesson done every two weeks
- grammar – “Voyages in English” once or twice a week
- spelling is an individualized program with a test about three times a term

Contacting the Teacher

1. By phone at school (603) 795-3111 Ext. 110 or at home (603) 632-5320
2. By e-mail at school – cynthia.williamson@crossroadsacademy.org

