

# Fourth Grade Science

## Overview for Parents

**Teacher:** Chery Whipple

### Content

The fourth grade science course follows the outline from the Core Knowledge Sequence. We cover the topics listed below in this order and approximate time sequence.

**September – October**  
Introduction to Science  
Meteorology

**October – November**  
Geology I: Plate Tectonics,  
Earthquakes and Volcanoes

**November – December**  
Chemistry I – Properties and  
Composition of Matter

**January**  
Chemistry II – Mixtures and Solutions

**January – February**  
Electricity

**February – March**  
The Circulatory System  
The Respiratory System

**April**  
Geology II – Weathering and Erosion

**May - June**  
Geology III – Rocks and Minerals

### Course Goals

In the fourth grade, science students begin each unit by practicing their note taking skills to set the stage for the investigations. During the investigations they work on making detailed and accurate observations and predictions that demonstrate an understanding of the material. They also practice recording their observations and writing conclusions that relate to their data. Each student has a science journal in which they document their work in the lab.

### Expectations for Students

In fourth grade the students are expected to be attentive in class, raise their hands when they want to speak, sharpen pencils, get drinks and go to the bathroom before or after, not during class. These are skills we work on throughout the year and expect to have mastered before fifth grade. All class interactions must be respectful and safe.

### Homework Requirements

1. Homework assignments are rare and short, but it is important to check the weekly assignment sheet. Sometimes the students are expected to bring in supplies for projects or to dress for a specific activity.
2. At the end of each unit of study the students will be assessed for their learning. Assessments will include projects and tests.
3. Before tests I will provide students and parents with notes to aid studying at home. We will also review in class. The tests are not designed to be too stressful, but they do require homework time for study and review with a parent. These assessments will be announced at least one week ahead on the weekly assignment sheet, and they will also be coordinated with the homeroom teacher.

### Contacting the Teacher

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