Fourth Grade Course Description
Overview for Parents

Teacher: Michele George

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

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

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New Hampshire Studies

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

History

Content or Content Goals

The fourth grade history curriculum covers a wide range of topics. We begin the year with the causes of the American Revolution starting with the French and Indian War. We follow this strand through the Revolution, to the founding of our nation and finishing with the War of 1812. This should see us through to the holiday break. Then at the start of the New Year, we will begin a unit on the Middle Ages in Europe. Here we will learn about the feudal system, the Crusades, and the Magna Carta. We will finish this unit with a Medieval Feast and then shift our focus to the Middle Ages in China. Finally, we will finish the year with a unit on the Middle Ages in Africa and learn about the many African kingdoms and the founding of Islam. The topics will be taught using both fiction and non-fiction reading selections, as well as poems, songs, and visual arts. There will be opportunities for writing within this curriculum, as well as opportunities for hands on projects.

Expectations for Students

History class will meet three times a week. Students should be prepared for each class with any assignment completed and ready to turn in, having all the necessary materials, and being ready and willing to participate during class discussions. Assignments will be posted on the fourth grade Weekly Update.

Major resources include (but are not limited to):

- “The Road to Independence” Grade 4 Core Knowledge Language Arts
- History and Geography Pearson Learning Core Knowledge Grade 4
- Crossroads Academy Fourth Grade Reader
- “Knights, Castles, and Chivalry” Grade 4 Core Knowledge Language Arts

Computer Coding

Through the use of the Code.org curriculum and the Scratch program and curriculum developed by MIT and Harvard, fourth graders will learn the fundamentals of computer coding. Through these programs, students will develop logical reasoning and sequencing skills, develop a better understanding of algorithms, and cause and effect.

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

• By phone at school (603) 795-3111 Ext. 110 or by e-mail at school michele.george@crossroadsacademy.org