

Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide 2013-2014



ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS
A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

Royal Oak Schools has a comprehensive curriculum for all fourth graders that includes academics, foreign language, physical education, health, music and art. Our curriculum also includes areas essential to the education of the total child. We pay close attention to the physical learning environment and the learning climate of our classrooms. We recognize the uniqueness of every child and are dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible. This guide describes Royal Oak's Curriculum for fourth grade students in the core academic areas of language arts, social studies, math and science.

The Fourth Grader

Fourth graders are independent learners. They place high expectations on themselves. We train them to take more responsibility for their own learning. Fourth graders have the ability to communicate effectively in both reading and writing.

- Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways to maximize achievement.
- Our curriculum is under continuous review and revision by teachers and administrators from all buildings.
- Teachers carefully monitor the progress of all students in a variety of ways. Report cards are sent home quarterly.
- Fourth graders are given the Math and Reading MEAP Tests. Results are sent to parents and used for educational planning.
- At every level students accomplish important milestones in each curricular area. The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and challenging at each grade.
- This guide outlines what we expect fourth grade students to be able to demonstrate throughout the year in each of the four core curricular areas.

Language Arts

Royal Oak's K-12 English Language Arts curriculum provides a framework for students to develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills. In Language Arts, students will:

- demonstrate understanding of a variety of texts through oral responses and weekly writings focusing on constructed response, story elements, summarizing, drawing conclusions and/or opinion.
- read a minimum of 150 minutes a week and keep an on-going record of titles and time.
- read a variety of materials.
- focus on Fantasy, Drama, Biography, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Poetry and Informational Texts.
- use graphic organizers to demonstrate understanding of story elements and information passage contents.
- keep an assessment writing portfolio which will include:
 - Persuasive extended response
 - Expository (information)
 - Narrative (story)
 - Opinion relating to an issue
 - Poetry
 - Letters (friendly and concern/request)
- have a variety of oral presentation experiences (for example, news report, book review and career speech).
- use an age-appropriate dictionary and thesaurus.
- analyze and interpret information given as a set of data (for example, charts, maps, graphs).

- use scoring charts (rubrics) to evaluate their written and oral communication skills.
- identify main idea or supporting details.
- show appropriate listening skills through written response to question.

Social Studies

Royal Oak's K-12 Social Studies Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop social understanding and civic responsibility by building four capacities in learners: disciplinary knowledge, thinking skills, commitment to democratic values, and citizen participation. At this grade students will begin to investigate the civic structure of the United States. In Fourth Grade Social Studies, students will also:

HISTORY – TIME AND CHRONOLOGY

- examine, compare, and interpret state and regional events identifying key conflict that shape history.
- demonstrate their mastery through a variety of assessments/activities.

GEOGRAPHY - INTERACTION OF PEOPLE, PLACES & CULTURE

- describe and compare the characteristics of the diverse people/cultures, places/communities.

ECONOMIC – PRODUCER & CONSUMER CHOICES

- examine a variety of economic concepts that involve decision-making situations.
- examine the role major industry and governments

CIVICS-PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT

- explore the structure, function and processes of local and federal government by examining core democratic values.
- examine branches of government, the lawmaking process and various aspects of democracy.

Math

Royal Oak's K-12 Mathematics Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop reasoning, communication, and problem-solving skills. The six strands of the math curriculum include: patterns, relationships and functions; geometry and measurement; data analysis and statistics; number sense and numeration; numerical and algebraic operations and analytical thinking; and probability and discrete mathematics.

In Math, students will:

- recognize, describe and extend numerical and geometric patterns by describing and creating patterns where four or more characteristics (color, shape, and size) are changing.
- recognize, describe, record and classify changes in numerical and geometric patterns up to five characteristics.
- graph ordered pairs, create tables and charts and make predictions using patterns.
- explain the relationship between repeating, increasing and decreasing patterns.
- locate and describe the position and direction of objects, and explore changes in shape, size and position.
- explore scale drawings, and relate them to the measurement of real objects.
- recognize symmetrical objects and their lines of symmetry.
- plot given coordinates on a graph, and estimate distances between two points.
- explain the unit of measure to be used, and relate scale drawings, maps and models to real objects.
- develop an understanding of the properties of whole numbers, decimals and fractions; investigate base 10 place value system and apply their knowledge.
- represent whole numbers, fractions and decimals; and explore different representations of the same number.
- explore the relationship of factors and multiplication.

- read, write, recognize, model and demonstrate an understanding of numerals, proper and improper fractions, and mixed numerals and decimals to the 100th place.
- count, order, name and locate the numbers from 0 to 999,999.
- use less than, greater than, and equal to order and compare numbers up to 9,999.
- use models to solve addition and subtraction equations up to six digits and use multiplication and division equations.
- solve two-step story problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- use manipulatives to model addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- write and solve open sentences, find variables for the sentences and write stories to fit the sentences.
- explore algebraic concepts with pictorial representations.
- conduct probability experiments, discuss the elements of chance.
- use a spreadsheet to display this data and to graph it.

Science

Royal Oak's K-12 Science Curriculum provides the framework for students to develop scientific literacy by using, constructing, and reflecting on scientific knowledge, and coming to informed conclusions. Students will learn concepts and theories of the three main science areas: earth, life, and physical. Using a hands-on approach fourth graders will learn about life, earth, and physical science. Students will learn to make predictions, use prior knowledge, conduct experiments, draw conclusions, and record their findings in their logs. Discussions, review, and assigned reading and writings will tie the lessons together. Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge, key concepts, and terminology to new situations. In Science, students will:

- study science on a daily basis.
- develop a curiosity about the world through hands-on investigations.
- identify and define key scientific content terms using science logs.
- record, organize, analyze, and reflect on data collected to answer questions created from and about the natural and physical world.
- explain their findings through written and oral reporting.

Topics covered in Fourth Grade Science include:

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| • Inquiry, reflection, and social implications | • Energy |
| • Properties of matter | • Organization of living things |
| • Electricity | • Ecosystems |
| | • Earth in space and time |

What Parents Can Do

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| ❖ Talk to your child about school daily. | ❖ Acknowledge a good job when you see it with positive comments. |
| ❖ Talk to and work with your child's teacher(s). | ❖ Check and sign your child's planner daily. |
| ❖ Have your child read a variety of material daily. | ❖ Look over and discuss your child's work. |
| ❖ Have your child practice writing at home (e.g., thank you notes, letters, and lists). | ❖ Ensure regular attendance at school. |
| ❖ Make math part of everyday life (e.g., money, time, fractions, and multiples). | ❖ Promote community service and involvement in school activities. |

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