

Art

By the end of fourth grade, your child will:

- Develop awareness through close observation of natural, man-made, and artistic forms
- Recognize and discuss characteristics of artworks from various time periods, cultures, and movements
- Recognize the work of American artist Georgia O’Keeffe and African American artist William Johnson
- Identify the characteristics of African art and Asian art
- Understand and apply:
 - overlapping shapes to create 3-dimensional space on a flat surface
 - color variations in painting to create depth
 - secondary colors (i.e., orange, violet, green) to create a composition
 - concept of sculpture-in-the-round to create a mobile
 - mixed media collage depicting the origins of the student’s cultural heritage

Music

By the end of fourth grade, your child will:

- Follow a conductor
- Begin reading two-part music
- demonstrated proper playing techniques on the recorder
- Play and improvise on the recorder and on barred instruments
- Continue to explore Western and non-Western music
- Continue to identify and sing sea-chanteys
- Recognize the music of Mozart and Grofe
- Be introduced to Classical, Romantic, popular, and folk music
- Continue to respond to music through improvised movement
- Dance traditional and American folk-dances
- Distinguish between syncopated and non-syncopated rhythms
- Further explore music notation

Health

Health instruction in the intermediate grades continues to reinforce safety, first aid, nutrition, and mental health. Students acquire these skills through their physical education and science classes, though much of the health curriculum—that concerned with substance abuse and conflict resolution—is delivered through *The Great Body Shop*, a commercially developed program in which all Middletown elementary teachers receive training. In fourth grade, your child will explore:

- Nutrition
- Substance Abuse
- Personal Wellness
- Safety
- Environmental Awareness

Physical Education

While attending to each student’s developmental stage, we help students gain the physical and social skills essential to living an active life. We offer opportunities for all students to develop and value their physical fitness. We offer opportunities for students to exhibit positive character traits during physical activity. By the end of fourth grade, your child will:

- Acquire basic skills to play various games
- Learn the components of the Connecticut State Fitness Test and taken the test
- Develop skills to resolve conflict
- Recognize that different cultures add to group activities
- Interact comfortably with peers while participating in group activities
- Develop good sportsmanship



MIDDLETOWN

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



GRADE FOUR

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW



Language Arts

In language arts, students will delve into literary and nonfiction texts, building their knowledge of the world and the richness of their vocabularies. Their thinking, discussions, and writing will be grounded in texts as they use evidence to support their opinions and statements. Our ultimate goal is to develop a strong foundation of literacy skills and promote a lifelong enthusiasm for learning. In fourth grade, your child will:

Reading Comprehension

- Use details from the text to describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama and to explain what a text says explicitly or when making inferences
- Pay close attention to key features of informational books and articles including: understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points
- Compare themes, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Relate words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)

Writing

- Write summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Independently conduct short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Write complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling

Speaking and Listening

- Paraphrase and respond to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Report orally on a topic or tell a story using sufficient facts and details

Math

The mathematics standards require students to demonstrate a conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts, a procedural fluency that allows for accuracy and efficiency, and the ability to persevere when problem solving. Our mathematics curriculum relies on critical thinking and working like a mathematician, which involves:

- Collecting information about a problem
- Looking for regularity in repeated reasoning
- Developing a plan for a solution
- Selecting appropriate tools strategically
- Justifying one's reasoning
- Making sense of solutions
- Communicating the process and results to others

The focus areas that must be mastered in fourth grade are:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic

Number and Operations – Fractions

- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers
- Understand decimal notation for fractions with denominators of 10 or 100, and compare decimal fractions

Measurement and Data

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of angle and measure angles

Geometry

- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles



Science

Students apply hands-on experiences and problem solving strategies to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of life, physical, and earth science. In fourth grade, your child will explore:

- Magnetism and Electricity
- Forces and Motion
- Matter and Energy in the Earth's Systems (Rocks and Minerals)

Social Studies

Our curriculum contains three major goals — to develop an appreciation and sense of school and neighborhood communities; to understand that individuals and families are diverse; and to identify and compare animals from different places around the world. In fourth grade, your child will explore:

- Understanding of Connecticut Government
- Connecticut Geography
- Regions of the United States