



**Riverview School**  
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## Curriculum Overview

# 4th Grade



**Educating for a lifetime  
of success**

Updated 2012

## Mathematics

- Use the 4 operations +/- multiplication and division with whole numbers to solve equations and word problems
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- Generate and expand number patterns using the four basic operations
- Solve T/F number sentences
- Use parenthesis to make number sentences true
- Place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers through billions
- Read, write, compare and estimate whole numbers, money and decimals
- Add/subtract positive ,negative and mixed numbers
- Extend understanding of equal fractions and ordering of fractions
- Understand decimal notation for fractions and compare decimal fractions
- Add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators
- Read, write, rename and represent fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers
- Convert fractions to decimals and percents
- Multiply and divide decimals
- Represent and interpret data
- Read and use graphs, charts, spinners and tables to solve problems
- Determine range, median, average, and mode from a set of data
- Use various tools to measure (rulers, thermometers, clocks, compass, protractor and balance)
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurement
- Introduce rates and practice collecting and comparing rate data
- Draw and identify lines and angles
- Classify shapes by properties
- Draw circles using a protractor
- Calculate perimeter and area of regular and irregular shapes
- Identify characteristics of geometric figures including: slides, flips, turns, and lines of symmetry
- Use visible cubes to determine the volume of a box



## Reading

- Demonstrate effective reading strategies to decode and understand unfamiliar words
- Know and apply grade level phonics
- Read aloud with developmental fluency, accuracy, expression, and understanding
- Use word context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary
- Determine the theme of a text from details
- Determine main idea of text and how it is supported by key details
- Recognize and describe story elements such as characters, setting, and plot
- Summarize text using story elements (fiction) and main ideas/supporting details (non-fiction)
- Reread text and use organizational features for clarification of ideas
- Refer to details/examples in text when explaining the literal meaning and drawing inferences from the text
- Read/comprehend a variety of genre at grade level
- Use effective reading strategies including: making predictions; making connections; identifying character traits; recognizing and comparing/contrasting points of view (1st and 3rd person)
- Compare and contrast themes, topics, and patterns of events in literature
- Determine meanings of words and phrases as used in text
- Determine meanings of words and phrases relevant to 4th grade topics/subjects
- Interpret information presented in text (charts, graphs, diagrams, etc) and explain how this information helps to more fully understand the text
- Explain how author's purpose helps support key points in text
- Integrate information from two or more texts on the same topic in order to write/speak about subject
- Explain differences between poems, drama, and prose and refer to their structural elements
- Make connections between text and self, text to world, and text to text

## Language Arts/Writing

- Write opinion pieces on topic/text, supporting a point of view with reasons and information
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing while using the 6+1 Traits of Writing
- Use technology to produce and publish writing
- Conduct research projects: take notes, categorize information, and provide sources
- Write over an extended and shorter time frames
- Engage in collaborative discussions
- Report aloud on a topic or text
- Use relative pronouns and adverbs
- Form and use progressive verb tenses and prepositional phrases
- Produce complete sentences
- Use correct capitalization, usage, punctuation, and spelling (CUPS)
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language and word relationships
- Use and understand common Greek and Latin affixes and roots
- Consistently write proper paragraphs, in all types of writing, using the 3 proper components: Topic Sentence, Supporting Detail Sentences, and a Concluding Sentence
- Write pieces with several paragraphs, and include an introduction paragraph, body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph

## Science

### **From Cells to Ecosystems**

- Describe 5 basic life functions
- Describe cell structure
- Compare parts of plant/animal cell
- Explore how organisms are classified
- Describe classification system of organisms
- Explore how skeletons are used to compare organisms
- Describe reasons organisms become extinct
- Identify characteristics of different ecosystems
- Describe how living and non-living things interact
- Explain producers, consumers, decomposers
- Trace path of energy in food chains/webs
- Explore factors that change ecosystems
- Describe ways people can fight pollution

### **Water**

- Describe features of oceans/saltwater communities, and freshwater communities
- Define what groundwater is and where it comes from
- Describe steps of the water cycle and explain what each step is
- Compare/contrast snow, sleet, hail
- Explain how temperature changes produce ocean currents
- Describe how currents and tides are formed/where tidal power comes from
- Discuss how waves are formed
- Explain how water can be polluted/cleaned
- Explore how water can be wasted/conserved

### **Weather**

- Explore properties of air
- Identify layers of the atmosphere
- Explain how differences in air pressure create winds
- Describe different types of clouds and how they form
- Identify different types of air masses/fronts
- Predict weather by interpreting weather maps
- Define climate & discuss human effects on climate

### **Earth in Space**

- Explore how Earth, the Moon, and the Sun move through space
- Describe how Earth's rotation causes the cycle of day and night
- Explain how Earth's tilt and its revolution around the Sun cause the seasons
- Discuss the phases of the Moon
- Explore the relationship between the distance of an object and how large it appears to be

### **Body Systems**

- Identify five of the major organ systems(digestive, circulatory, respiratory, skeletal, and nervous) in humans and animals
- Describe the major parts of these five organ systems
- Describe the functions of these five organ systems

## Social Studies

- Locate and label continents, bodies of water, mountain ranges, man-made features, border, cities and states
- Apply and demonstrate knowledge of map skills focusing on latitude/longitude/grids/scale/time zone/and map features
- Use a US map and/or world map to locate physical, natural, and human feature; political and natural boundaries
- Identify important historical events/figures and their contributions to a geographic region/society
- Explain why rules and laws are necessary for communities to survive and how rules and laws impact the climate at home, in the classroom and in the world
- Describe the role of the three branches of government at the local, state, and federal level
- Explain how natural resources and climate affect job choices, housing, population and industry
- Interpret how the importing and exporting of natural resources and products affect the economies, jobs, education, and way of life in the US
- Analyze how current events effect daily life and society
- Examine historical documents to understand the importance of freedom, justice, and democracy
- Identify the five regions of the US and explore their landforms, resources, climate, people and history
- Prioritize wants and needs to examine importance of budgeting money
- Recognize the impact of Wisconsin's manufacturing and farming on the people in different regions of the US and the world
- Explore Wisconsin history, geography, government, industry and Native America groups

## Spanish

- Review questions (hello/goodbye, how are you, what are you like)
- Review adjective agreement and masculine vs feminine
- Learn how to speak with complete sentence structure (Ex. I am \_\_\_)
- Practice pronunciation and spelling of words using the Spanish alphabet
- Review numbers 0-50 and learn numbers 51 to 70
- Review body parts, family, days of the week, months of the year, and weather
- Review all Spanish holidays and do activities regarding 1-2 of them
- Review Spanish-speaking countries, introduce new country
- Introduction to different greetings and questions.

## **Art**

- Understand the specific qualities of art materials used (ex. Watercolor-transparent)
- Create a mixed media project
- Demonstrate an understanding of light, shadow and value
- Learn about cultures and history through various art forms
- Create a project using one-point perspective
- Create a 3-dimensional project using coil building
- Create a painting in the style of an artist

## **Music**

- Distinguish between the vocal sounds of a soloist, a duet, a trio, a quartet, and a chorus
- Distinguish between the sounds of the four major families of orchestral instruments
- Recognize musical notation including Dotted Rhythms and Eighth Rests
- Be introduced to the recorder, a simple wind instrument
- Develop the following instrumental music skills: Posture, Hand Positioning, Air Support, Breath Control, and Articulation
- Perform music in concert by playing the recorder, both in unison songs and in two-part harmony

## **Physical Education**

- Combine movement skills with strategies to improve sport specific skills
- Participate in activities to improve their physical fitness levels
- Understand team building skills
- Apply knowledge of rules and good sportsmanship

## **Informational Technology**

- use keyboard and menu shortcuts common to operating systems and software
- organize, retrieve, and save to personal storage drive using folders and naming convention
- discern trustworthy actions, interactions, and search results found within the Internet
- utilize school technology in compliance with Riverview School Acceptable Use policy
- navigate Power Point to create visually-rich presentations

## **Guidance**

Riverview School has a K-8 Comprehensive School Counseling Program that emphasizes student's Academic, Personal/Social, and Career Development. The program is delivered to students through developmental classroom guidance, small group counseling, and individual counseling.