

Fourth Grade Syllabus for Fall Semester 2007

A. Burnes
K. Jacobs
Lindsay Phillips

Expectations for Classwork and Homework

Students' papers should be properly headed including the student's first and last name, date, subject, and book page number, if applicable. All work should be neat, legible, complete, and represent the child's best effort. Correct grammar, sentence structure, and spelling are expected. Students will be asked to do again work that is unsatisfactory.

Students should expect to spend a minimum of one hour per day (including home reading) on homework, Monday through Thursday. All students are required to read 100 minutes per week of self-selected reading. Students are expected to have a minimum of forty Accelerated Reader points per semester.

Schedule

Our schedule has been arranged to make the most of our academic day. The core subjects of Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies are taught every day. Specials, including Physical Education, Music, Chorus, Band/Strings, and Spanish, are taught mainly between 8:40 and 9:40. The Discovery Model is pull out and interdisciplinary. Separate teachers, using a departmentalized model, teach Math, Social Studies, and Science.

Language Arts

Language Arts includes reading, spelling, grammar, writing, listening, and speaking skills. Textbooks include Scott Foresman's Reading, Wordly Wise, and Junior Great Books.

These are widely supplemented with library and trade books. Again this year, the Sagamore Hills schoolwide program is emphasizing Accelerated Reader books and comprehension tests. Ten percent of each child's Language Arts grade is based on accomplishing the Accelerated Reader goal for the semester. The fourth grade teachers teach Language Arts to their homeroom. Please see the attachment for the Georgia Performance Standards.

Math

First semester math topics include place value, money, addition, subtraction, geometry, graphing, measurement, multiplication, and division. We use the Houghton Mifflin Expressions and Math Georgia text and Arithmetic Developed Daily. reinforce the lessons. Students also have worksheets and tests from the computerized “Accelerated Math” program, which will count as 5% of the Math grade. Manipulatives and computers are used to increase understanding and mastery. We are particularly emphasizing speed and accuracy in computation. Mrs. Jacobs teaches the math objectives. Please see the attachment for the Georgia Performance Standards.

Social Studies

During the first semester, we study regions, geography, and history of the United States. The textbook is A Young Nation. With our States Project, we are teaching research, note taking, map and diagram reading, and writing skills. Mr. A. Burnes teaches the Social Studies objectives for fourth grade. Please see the attachment for the Quality Core Curriculum.

Science

Topics this semester include plants, animals, earth history and rocks, ecology, the solar system and astronomy, and ecosystems. Our textbook is McGraw-Hill Science. The science textbooks are online at <http://www.mhln.com/>. The McGraw-Hill Science web site is www.mhscience02.com. This site contains chapter summaries and on line quizzes for each chapter. Hands on activities, experiments, laser disc technology, and Fernbank programs supplement the text. Mrs. Phillips teaches the Science objectives for fourth grade. Please see the attachment for the Georgia Performance Standards.

Late Work

All homework and classwork is due the following day, unless indicated otherwise by the teacher. Late work will be accepted one day beyond the original due date, but there will be a deduction of 10% as a penalty.

Work will not be accepted after it is one day late.

Absence Procedure

We must have a parent note, e-mail, or phone call explaining an absence when a student returns to school. Work following an excused absence must be made up within two school days.

Elementary Standards & Grading Procedures

4th Grade

Teachers: K. Jacobs
L. Phillips
A. Burnes

School Phone Number: 678-874-7502

Email Address: [Kathleen B Jacobs@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:Kathleen_B_Jacobs@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us)
[Lindsay I Phillips@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:Lindsay_I_Phillips@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us)
[Andrew W Burnes@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us](mailto:Andrew_W_Burnes@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us)

School Website Link: www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~sagamore

Course Descriptions:

Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for ELA, Math and Science

GPS for Language Arts: Fourth grade students will receive instruction in reading, writing, and listening, speaking, and viewing. By the end of 4th Grade, students will be able to:

- Read and comprehend texts from a variety of genres
- Understand and learn from texts without having a teacher preview the material for them
- Read and understand informational texts from other content areas as well as from language arts
- Use, independently, a variety of metacognitive strategies, such as self-questioning techniques when reading materials seem contradictory or hard to understand, to deepen and expand their understanding of texts
- Use writing as a tool for learning
- Articulate how authors use a variety of techniques and craft in their writing, and show evidence of the author's craft in their own writing
- Communicate effectively with different audiences
- Participate in cooperative learning environments

GPS for Mathematics: All students will be actively engaged in developing mathematical understandings in real and relevant contexts. By the end of 4th Grade, students will be able to:

- Use properties of the four arithmetic operations to solve and check problems
- Determine when and how to use rounding
- Solve problems involving multiplication and division of whole numbers (2-3 digits by 1-2 digits)
- Add and subtract simple decimals and common fractions with common denominators
- Measure weight and use appropriate units and tools to measure angles
- Understand characteristics of and model geometric plane and solid figures, and use the first quadrant of the coordinate system
- Understand and apply patterns and rules to describe relationships and solve problems, including using the strategy of working backwards
- Write mathematical expressions using symbols and evaluate using different values
- Gather, organize, and display data in bar, line, and picture graphs, and compare features of graphs and identify missing or duplicate data

GPS for Science: Fourth grade students will gather and interpret data and make models to focus on "doing" science related to earth science, physical science, and life science. DeKalb students are taught science

Elementary Standards & Grading Procedures

4th Grade

through the use of *Critical Experiences* which are direct experiences that children should have when studying a specific content area. By the end of 4th Grade, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between observations and ideas
- Use records, tables, or graphs to identify patterns of change
- Write instructions and make sketches that allow others to carry out a scientific procedure
- Compare and contrast attributes of stars and planets
- Model position and motion of the earth, moon, and sun
- Investigate heating and cooling and use of thermometers and insulation
- Investigate magnets
- Differentiate between habitats in Georgia and the organisms that live in our state
- Recognize effects of pollution and humans on the environments

Quality Core Curriculum Standards (QCCs) for Social Studies

QCCs for Social Studies: In fourth grade, students begin the formal study of United States history. In fourth grade the four strands of history, geography, civics, and economics are fully integrated. Students begin their study of United States history with the development of Native American cultures and conclude with the antebellum period ending in 1860. The geography strand emphasizes the influence of geography on early U. S. history. The civics strand emphasizes concepts and rights development during the formation of our government. The economics strand uses material from the historical strand to further understanding of economic concepts.

Core Social Studies Skills are integrated throughout all core areas and will be taught across all curriculum areas.

- Information Processing
- Problem Solving
- Civic Participation
- Time and Chronology
- Maps and Globes

National Standards for Physical Education and Health

Physical Education: The goal of *physical education* is to develop physically educated individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. The curriculum for physical education includes six national standards:

- **Standard 1:** Demonstrates competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- **Standard 2:** Demonstrates understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.
- **Standard 3:** Participates regularly in physical activity.
- **Standard 4:** Achieves and maintains a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.
- **Standard 5:** Exhibits responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
- **Standard 6:** Values physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction.

Health Education provides students with the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics related to their physical, emotional, and social health. The curriculum for health includes eight national standards:

Elementary Standards & Grading Procedures

4th Grade

- **Standard 1:** Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.
- **Standard 2:** Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors.
- **Standard 3:** Students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health.
- **Standard 4:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.
- **Standard 5:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.
- **Standard 6:** Students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.
- **Standard 7:** Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce risks.
- **Standard 8:** Students will demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family and community health.

Core Instructional Materials and Resources (Textbook/Publisher/web links):

English Language Arts: Scott Foresman Reading Program

Mathematics: Houghton Mifflin: Math Expressions & Math Georgia

Science: McGraw-Hill Science & Critical Experiences Checklist

Social Studies: McGraw-Hill Adventures in Time and Place

Physical Education and Health:

<http://www.pecentral.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/index.htm>

<http://www.healthierus.gov/exercise.html>

Web Links for Parental Support

- CompassLearning & Odyssey <http://www.compasslearning.com>
- NetTrekker classic & Netrekker di (Differentiated Instruction) <http://www.nettrekker.com>
- Information on standards-based education <http://edinformatics.com/parents.htm>
- Georgia Department of Education (Standards for all content areas) <http://www.doe.k12.ga.us>
- Homework Help <http://school.discovery.com>
- Resources, research tools, and grade-specific activities <http://lightspan.com>
- Educational games for students and advice for parents <http://school.discovery.com>

English language arts Web Links for Parental Support

- Scott Foresman Reading Program
- <http://www.sfsuccessnet.com> The Know Zone

Mathematics Web Links for Parental Support:

- Houghton Mifflin www.eduplace.com
- U.S. Dept. of ED. www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/index.html
- Bi-Lingual Math Ed. <http://www.aaamath.com/>
- Math Education <http://www.math.com/parents.html>
- Online Math Games <http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

Elementary Standards & Grading Procedures

4th Grade

Science Web Links for Parental Support

- Released test items from state testing program <http://www.edinformatics.com/testing/testing.htm>
- Ask-a-scientist. <http://www.madsci.org/>
- Genetics Resources written at the Elementary Level <http://learn.genetics.utah.edu/>
- Volcanoes <http://volcano.und.edu/>

Social Studies Web Links for Parental Support

- Social Studies Sites for Elementary Students <http://www.ortegaelementary.org/socialstudiessites.htm>
- National Geographic <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>
- World Almanac for Kids <http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/timeline.html>
- Statistical data for countries that are a part of the United Nations http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/infonation/e_infonation.htm
- Learn about everyday habits and customs from various cultures around the world. <http://www.netlaputa.ne.jp/~tokyo3/e/>
- How to register to vote in the United States <http://www.registervote.com/>

Physical Education and Health Web Links for Parental Support

- <http://www.cdc.gov/NCCDPHP/DNPA/physical/recommendations/young.htm>
- <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.ihtml?identifier=2155>
- <https://www.healthatoz.com/healthatoz/Atoz/hl/fit/star/kfphyact.jsp>

Grading Scale: Weighted Averages (Board Policy)

A = 90% – 100%	Excellent
B = 80% - 89%	Good
C = 71% - 79%	Fair
D = 70	Passing
F = below 70	Failing

Grading Policy:

- Classwork/Participation - 40 %**
- Tests & Quizzes 30%**
- Projects 20%**
- Homework 10%**