

4th Grade Academics

The Academy provides a venue in which all students can be educated and assessed in both traditional and non-traditional ways, thereby helping children to thrive in all learning environments. The 4th grade curriculum is fully aligned with state content expectations, is challenging, differentiated, project driven and real-world connected both in and through the arts and technology. At WMAAA, your child will become a confident and excited learner.

Language Arts:

Our fourth grade English Language Arts program continues to develop strength in reading, writing, speaking, listening and responding skills. Your child will increase his/her ability to analyze and synthesize information and thoughts, and become a self aware, confident reader, writer and speaker that uses various communicating skills and mediums to gain or share knowledge. The fourth grade English Language Arts student will do the following:

- Use more sophisticated word decoding skills and strategies to increase fluency and comprehension with increasingly demanding text as the year proceeds
- Continue to analyze elements and style of an expanding list of narrative genres (poetry, myths/legends, fantasy, adventure) and study how authors use various tools and literary devices to develop themes, characters, and issues
- Increase knowledge of style, organizational patterns and elements of information genre and use this knowledge to improve and apply comprehension strategies and in production of their own informational writings
- Refine and strengthen strategies, knowledge, and organization tools to self-monitor comprehension and to take initiative to recognize and correct comprehension challenges
- Continue to strengthen use and knowledge of various literary devices, pre-writing skills and writing strategies across an increasing number of writing genres
- Strengthen process writing skills while focusing on the development of pre-planning and drafting strategies using various graphic organizers, editing, revising, developing sound paragraphs, personal style, voice, grammar usage and spelling skills.

Science:

Fourth grade students combine open ended project learning and informational learning skills to study specific units within the earth, biological and physical science fields. Science processes of inquiry, reflection, and constructing new knowledge that have been initiated in previous grades are continued to be strengthened and broadened. Students are provided opportunities to apply significant knowledge from what is read in grade level science texts of various origins. Specific units of study will include the following:

- Earth sun and moon
- Rocks, minerals, and the changing earth
- Energy, electricity, light, sound, and magnets
- Plants and forests and their uses
- Scientific measurement.

Mathematics:

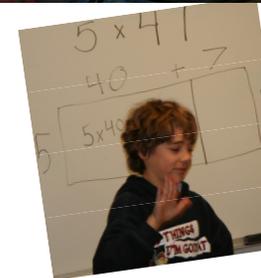
Fourth grade mathematics studies continues to build number and operations skills and fluency. In working with numbers, place value expands as students compose and decompose numbers into various formats. Multiplication and Division become the operations of focus. Various algorithms for multiplication and division are explored and practiced. Properties of operations are formalized and discussed. Fraction and decimal work started in the previous years are expanded and number operations are explored through fractions. Estimation skills continue to be expanded as is measurement in various systems. In geometry, basic vocabulary about special angles and line relationships are explored as is symmetry and transformations. Students also continue to expand skills in working with data sets and displaying these in multiple ways. Units of study will include the following:

- Number notation and place value
- Operations in addition and subtraction
- Operations in multiplication and division including factors and multiples
- Understand, read, use, and interpret fractions and decimals
- Estimation and measurement
- Geometric shapes, angles, intersecting lines, symmetry and transformation
- Data analysis and multiple representations of data sets.

Social Studies:

Using the context of later Michigan history and regions of the United States, students learn fundamental concepts in geography, civics and government, and economics through the lens of later Michigan History not covered in 3rd grade and regions of the United States. Multiple opportunities are made for students to visit points of interest around Michigan. Students continue to develop their understanding of core democratic values. Units of study will include the following:

- Michigan history from statehood to present
- Regions of the United States
- How state and federal government works
- Market economies and business structures
- Public issues and citizen involvement.



Every Child Successful, Everyday !

4th Grade Arts

The Academy places an equal emphasis on the arts and academic subjects within our curriculum. To achieve this, our arts programs have two distinctive goals. The first goal is achieved through the arts and academics integration process, where by academic concepts studied in the classroom are studied and reinforced through the arts. Secondly, specific arts skills, which have been aligned with the state and national standards for the arts, are studied with the intent of developing basic competencies. In grades 3 and 4, students will attend classes in all art forms for integration with the academic curriculum each week. In addition, students will have an opportunity to pursue two art forms in more depth to develop skills in those art forms.

Dance: Concepts introduced in fourth grade include musicality and rhythm, concentration and focus while performing, using improvisation in dance, and being an audience for a dance performance. Fourth grade dancers will do the following:

- Learn basic skills of three dance genres: ballet, tap and jazz
- Understand the similarities and differences between and among these three dance styles
- Respond to a musical beat and changes in tempo
- Demonstrate concentration and focus when performing movement skills
- Demonstrate effective partnering
- Demonstrate the ability to work alone on a creative movement sequence
- Perform a dance sentence and perform it with musical accompaniment
- Use improvisation to solve a movement problem
- Learn and perform a dance from a different country
- Use dance to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines

Music: Some of the concepts in music class include using the singing voice properly, learning terms in music, reading simple notes in treble clef and learning to play the recorder. Fourth grade musicians will do the following:

- Understand note values
- Know names of piano keys
- Read notes on a staff
- Understand time signatures, counting, intervals and rests
- Sing and play a small piece from memory
- Use head and chest voices appropriately, proper posture and good diction
- Sing expressively with dynamics and phrasing
- Respond to cues of the conductor
- Identify themes and variations in a composition
- Use music to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines

Drama: Concepts introduced in fourth grade include creating characters, constructing dramatizations, using new dramatic techniques while working cooperatively. Fourth grade actors will do the following:

- Create characters using variation of movement and voice
- Create and performing characters from their imagination, history and literature
- Construct a classroom dramatization based on environment and situation
- Develop a scripted dramatization defining plot, characters and setting
- Experiment with use of space and simple technical elements
- Work in groups, cooperatively, to create a dramatic production
- Use drama to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines

Visual Art: Concepts introduced include grade comparing and contrasting art from a variety of cultures, using art to communicate an emotion or feeling, illustrating a personal story, reading others art for meaning, and exploring the elements and principles of art using a variety of art materials. Fourth grade artists will do the following:

- Demonstrate responsible and safe use of a variety of art materials
- Choose materials based on their aesthetic qualities and ability to communicate the intended message
- Apply knowledge of proportion when drawing existing objects
- Identify and mix tints, tones and shades of color applying basic rules of color mixing
- Create space in artwork using basic perspective of overlap, size change and placement and one point perspective
- Use art to learn about or reinforce knowledge from other disciplines

