

Key Skills in the Fourth Grade

Grade Four students understand large numbers and add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers. They describe and compare simple fractions and decimals. They understand the properties of plane geometric figures. In English/language arts, students shift from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. They read and understand a wide variety of narrative and expository text. Students apply their knowledge of word origins, derivations, synonyms, antonyms, idioms, and root words to determine the meaning of unknown words in a passage. They achieve clear and coherent paragraphs that show they consider the audience and purpose and write 5 paragraph essays with an introductory and concluding paragraph. In addition to their regular school reading, students in grade four read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate text.

By the end of the year, students in grade four should be able to independently read:

How to Eat Fried Worms, by Thomas Rockwell; *Chocolate Fever*, by Robert Smith; *Flossie and the Fox*, by Patricia McKissack; *Nothing’s Fair in Fifth Grade*, by Barthe DeClements; *Nancy Drew* (series), by C. Keene.

Math

Students:

- count, read, and write numbers in the millions
- compare and order whole numbers, decimals, and fractions on a number line and using $<$, $=$, $>$
- round numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, or hundred thousand
- round decimals to the nearest tenth or whole number
- solve multiplication and division problems of multi-digit numbers by two digit numbers
- factor small whole numbers and identify prime numbers such as 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11
- use parentheses to indicate which operation to perform first
- use and interpret formulas using variables (area = length x width or $A = lw$)
- measure the area of a rectangle using square centimeter, square meter, square inch, etc
- identify parallel and perpendicular lines, radius and diameter of a circle, congruent figures, and symmetry
- analyze data using the mean, median, and mode
- represent possible outcomes for simple probability situations in an organized way (table, grid, tree diagram)
- determine when and how to break a problem into simpler parts
- use words, numbers, symbols, charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, and models to explain their reasoning

English/Language Arts

Students:

- read common sight words*
- read narrative and expository text aloud with accuracy, appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression
- use comprehension strategies when reading for pleasure, full comprehension, or locating information
- use a thesaurus to determine related words and concepts
- identify structural patterns such as sequential/chronological order, compare/contrast, cause/effect
- describe the structural differences of fantasies, fables, myths, legends, and fairy tales
- identify the main events of the plot, their causes, and how they influence future actions
- define figurative language (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification) and identify in literary works
- write 5 paragraph essays
- select a focus, an organizational structure, and a point of view based on purpose, audience, length, and format requirements of different writing assignments
- quote or paraphrase information, citing sources and use reference materials to locate information
- write narratives, responses to literature, information reports, and summaries that demonstrate an understanding of the information or literature
- use simple and compound sentences and combine short related sentences with appositives, participial phrases, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases
- identify and use regular and irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions
- use parentheses, commas in direct quotations, apostrophes, underlining, quotation marks, and italics
- summarize major ideas and supporting evidence in written work, spoken messages, and formal presentations

*Ask your ES for the list of 400 most common words in the English Language