**Fourth Grade Standards Overview**

Fourth Grade is an important year as students transition to the “upper” grades of elementary school. Fourth grade becomes more rigorous as students move from skill grades to letter grades for the first time.  Fourth grade is a time of tremendous growth. Fourth graders are taught to think deeply and make connections in their learning. They learn more complex concepts in all subjects. Fourth graders become much more independent in and responsible for their learning.

During your child’s 4th grade year, they will be working to master the following concepts:

**Religion**

Overview:  Fourth graders continue to recognize God as the center of their lives and our classroom.  Our faith and Christian beliefs influence everything that happens in our classroom and school.  Expectations are based on our beliefs and knowledge of God. The goal for Fourth graders is that they meet their full potential as Children of God as they grow in their Faith.

* + **Profession of Faith**
* Expand knowledge of the Bible and Sacred Scripture.
* Personal Relationship with God through our Faith.
* Jesus as personal Savior.
* Holy Trinity.
* Learn about the Saints and how they are important to our daily lives.
  + **Celebration of Christian Mystery**
    - Seven Sacraments
    - Review of Reconciliation and the part it plays in our lives.
    - Understand what we do to commit sin and be reconciled.
  + **Life in Christ**
    - The Beatitudes
    - Virtues
    - Law of Love
    - The Ten Commandments; what they are, how to live them out.
  + **Christian Prayer**
    - Importance of Prayer in our lives.
    - What prayer is and the four types of prayer.
    - Learning standard prayers.
    - Writing new prayers.
    - Focusing on and listening to God in Prayer and our daily lives.

**ELA**

**Overview:**Fourth graders are immersed in reading and language arts activities.  The goal is for all students to develop a love of and enjoyment in reading and writing.  As enjoyment increases so does proficiency and growth. Reading and Writing are seen as our way to grow and gain knowledge.  Fourth graders begin to compare and really think about what they read.

* + **Reading: Literature:**
    - Exposure to  and study of a variety of genre including fiction, realistic fiction, historical fiction, fantasy, adventure, and others.
    - Analyzing text including leads, endings, character analysis, transitions, purpose, and so on.
    - Emphasis on reading for enjoyment as well as knowledge.
    - Choosing Just Right books.
    - Comprehension and challenging oneself.
  + **Reading: Informational Text**
    - Exposure to a wide variety of informational text.
    - Learning to read informational text for enjoyment as well as knowledge.
    - Researching using text.
    - Comparing Informational Text.
  + **Reading: Foundational Skills**
    - Phonics and Vocabulary.
    - Word decoding strategies are taught and used.
    - Context Clues.
    - Skills needed to understand different types of writing.
    - Learn to read as a reader and as a writer.
  + **Writing**
    - Skills needed to write different types of writing including narrative, persuasive, non-fiction, biography, and research.
    - Explore writing other genre such as fantasy, adventure, and horror.
    - Learn to read as a writer.
    - Develop a love of writing.
  + **Speaking and Listening**
    - Many opportunities to listen to other’s presentations.  Taught clear expectations of what this looks like.
    - Variety of opportunities to present in front of others.
    - Learning to give a completely oral report to inform others.
    - Sharing with partners, small group, and whole class.
  + **Language**
    - Review of the basic parts of speech including nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, adverbs, and prepositions.
    - Writing correct sentences.
    - Proper punctuation and capitalization.
    - Writing good paragraphs including an introduction; facts, reasons, or details; and a conclusion.

**Math**

**Overview:**Fourth graders continue to use the four basic operations they have mastered in increasingly complex problems.  Students learn how to do multiple step problems in multiplication and division. They learn about multiples and factoring.  They continue to learn about the reasons behind the math that they do, and how it relates to their everyday life. They increasingly are expected to explain the reasons behind the computation.  Some of the things they learn include:

* + **Numbers and Operations** 
    - Understand place value
    - Maintain mastery of basic addition, subtraction and multiplication facts with quick and accurate recall.
    - Memorize basic division facts within 144 with quick and accurate recall.
    - Multiply and divide decimals up to two decimal places by a one-digit whole number.
    - Understand factors and prime numbers.
    - Understand fractions including denominators, numerators, equivalent fractions, and improper fraction, and know how to add and subtract fractions.
    - Multiply a fraction by a whole number.
    - Express decimals as fractions.
  + **Measurement**
    - Convert from one unit of measurement to a larger or smaller unit of measurement.
    - Determine the appropriate measuring tool to use in a given situation and select appropriate units of measurement.
    - Use the four operations to solve word problems involving distance, elapsed time, liquid volumes, mass of objects, and money.
  + **Geometry**
    - Recognize and understand the basic elements of geometric objects, properties of shapes, angles, and the coordinate plane.
    - Recognize that plane figures have line symmetry and transformations.
    - Know the formulas for perimeter and area of a square and rectangle and use these formulas to solve real world and mathematical problems.
  + **Algebraic Reasoning**
    - Continue to develop algebraic concepts introduced in Numbers and Operations and Geometry.
  + **Data, Probability, and Statistics**
    - Represent and Interpret data using bar graphs, line plots, and fractions.
    - Find the median and range of data sets.
  + **Mathematical Practices**
    - Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them while understanding the meaning of quantities involved.
    - Attend to precision and accuracy of calculation and proved answers using various types of reasoning.
    - Clearly communicate mathematical thinking using math vocabulary orally and in writing
    - Use representations to model mathematical ideas.

**Science**

**Overview:**Fourth graders use scientific method and experiments to learn and discover the world around them.  Reading and writing work that fourth graders do helps them greatly with their scientific learning. These skills include reading non-fiction texts, taking notes, and researching.  Students are expected to synthesize information and make comparisons which help them to grow and learn.

* + **Energy**
    - Learn the definition of energy and the different ways energy can move from place to place.
    - Understand the laws of Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer.
    - Explore the relationship between energy and forces.
    - Understand the energy in chemical process and how that relates to everyday life.
    - Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural sources, and affect the environment in different ways.
    - Explore and define possible solutions to a problem that is limited by available materials and resources.
  + **Waves: Waves and Information**
    - Understand the patterns of waves and their regular patterns of motion.
    - Learn about the difference in individual waves amplitude and wavelength.
    - Relate waves to the digitized information that can be transmitted over long distances and how this relates to technology .
    - Explore the idea that different solutions need to be tested in order to determine which of them best solves the problem, given the criteria and the constraints.
  + **Structure, Function, and Information Processing**
    - Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.
    - Learn that plants and animals have various structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.
    - Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain, and respond to the information in different ways.
  + **Earth’s Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth**
    - Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in a landscape over time.
    - Observe the evidence of the effects of weathering and the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.
    - Analyze and interpret data from maps to describe patterns of Earth’s features.
    - Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth process on Humans such as earthquakes.

**Social Studies**

**Overview:**Fourth Graders will continue to learn about Michigan History starting with statehood and moving through the present.  They will do in depth learning about regions and our state and national government. Students do projects which teach them how to do in depth research, do oral presentations, and make a difference in our world.  Topics they will learn about include the following:

* + **History:** 
    - Slavery, the Underground Railroad and the Civil War and how they impact each other.
    - Natural resources, with an emphasis on copper, iron ore, and lumbering.  The effects of glaciers. Manufacturing during the industrial revolution and its effects on our economy.
    - Transportation and its importance.  This includes rivers, roads, ships, trains, cars, and inventions.
    - Important events of the 20th century including: WWI, the Great Depression,  WWII, the Labor Movement, Suffrage, and work programs like the CCC.
    - Michigan to the Present including the Mackinac Bridge, Civil Rights, important people, and current events with an emphasis on making a difference.
  + **Geography**:
    - Regions, states, and capitals.
    - Understand how regions are created.
    - Study physical environment and the effects man has on it.
    - Learn about individual states as part of a region.  Compare the states.
  + **Civics and Government:**
    - Core Democratic Values, what they mean, how they are used or not used.
    - Purposes of government.
    - Responsibilities of citizenship.
    - State and National governments and their roles in our lives.  Compare and Contrast the two**.**
  + **Economics:**
    - Supply and demand.
    - Investing and stock market.
    - Scarcity and how it affects prices.
    - Budgeting and Trade-offs.
  + **Public discourse, decision making, and citizen involvement:**
    - Importance of core Democratic Values.
    - Importance of voting.
    - Debating and public discourse on important topics.
    - The use of persuasive writing to take action and be involved in our government.