

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

Solidly in Upper School, fourth graders soar academically and socially, exploding with curiosity and excitement.

The interdisciplinary mammal project is a highlight in which students work with art, reading, and writing to discover how they can use their academic skills to bring animals to life.

A field trip to Lafayette Square is another memorable experience in which students blend architecture, painting, and writing to capture the personality of a historic home.

In math, students are challenged to apply their conceptual understanding to real world scenarios and sharpen their skills with projects such as designing a garden.

Fourth graders also lead with heart as they visit the Humane Society and explore ways that they can positively impact the world.

Class literature opens students' horizons and cultivates empathy in the exploration of perspectives and experiences across cultures and throughout history.

In the classroom, students are supported in their growing executive functioning and study skills as homework and study expectations gradually increase and students are introduced to two new teachers for social studies and science.

Reading

Read class literature books across a variety of genres | Develop comprehension skills including making predictions backed with evidence, summarizing main events, inferring subtle meanings, and making connections within and between texts | Recall and sequence events in novels | Reflect on the development of theme in literature | Express critical thinking about literature both verbally and through written response | Practice comprehension skills through reading nonfiction texts

Class literature includes: *By the Great Hornspoon* | *Number the Stars* | *From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Language Arts

Review and deepen understanding of the 6+1 Writing Traits | Compose realistic fiction pieces with story arcs, demonstrating understanding of conflict, climax, resolution, character development, and sequencing | Explore descriptive writing in coordination with the interdisciplinary Lafayette Square project in art, using similes and expressive language to describe a selected house and reflect on what may have occurred in the home over the last century | Write “Pumpkin Alley” poems exploring description and characterization guided by an adjective | Research mammals using print and online sources to create expository pieces that answer key research questions | Write, memorize, and perform informative mammal speeches in the first-person | Craft personal essays on influential people, places, and activities, using thesis statements and supporting details in a five-paragraph essay format | Experiment with poetry formats and poetic devices, creating poetry books that include original pieces developed around student-selected themes | Complete journal entries with a focus on practicing narrative and opinion writing with attention to the 6+1 Writing Traits

Mathematics

Complete math projects to provide differentiation, reinforce concepts, make real world connections, and develop problem-solving and executive function skills | Define and classify polygons | Analyze data and explore the differences between bar graphs and line plots | Review addition and subtraction methods | Identify factors and multiples to strengthen multiplication skills | Manipulate number sentences with order of operations | Practice methods for solving large number multiplication and division problems | Explore the relationship between fractions, decimals, and percents | Investigate area and perimeter of polygons and volume of geometric solids | Study reflection, rotation, translation, and negative numbers

Resources include: Everyday Math, IXL

Grammar

Review adjective usage and identify places in writing where adjectives could be added | Identify subjects and predicates of sentences | Practice editing to correct run-ons and sentence fragments | Deepen understanding of commonly confused homophones | Review capitalization and punctuation rules for sentences | Study various types of comma usage | Practice using commas and conjunctions to form compound sentences | Explore verb tenses, types of verbs, and subject-verb agreement | Identify and use adverbs to add depth to writing

Social Studies

Study European exploration of North America, beginning with the Vikings and Christopher Columbus | Explore the first three settlements in America (Roanoke, Jamestown, and Plymouth) and the original thirteen colonies | Develop a brochure advertising an American colony for Europeans that demonstrates understanding of historical context | Examine Westward Expansion with a focus on Lewis and Clark, the Oregon Trail and the significance of expanding the country | Learn about the founding fathers and the formation of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and Bill of Rights | Research a student-selected American President and present findings | Complete weekly current events articles to foster critical thinking and global awareness

Science

Investigate life science concepts, including how living things are classified and the different levels of classification | Practice classification by focusing on the plant kingdom | Grow brassica rapa plants, collecting data to investigate the stages in a plant's life cycle | Explore parts of the plant and adaptations of plants and pollinators by experiencing a plant's growth and development through the life cycle | Study types of energy and changes in form of energy | Differentiate between renewable and nonrenewable sources of energy | Build circuits to manipulate electrical energy, including simple, series, and parallel circuits with switches and resistors | Learn about the composition of the earth | Explore plate tectonics, focusing on how forces beneath the surface shape events and landscapes, such as landforms, earthquakes, and volcanoes

Units of Study: Life Science (Classifications and Kingdoms), Physical Science (Forms of Energy), Earth Science (Earth's Systems & Plate Tectonics)

Art

Learn about various artists to inspire and influence different art projects and methods | Learn to use scale and proportion in art, especially in understanding architecture | Explore architectural concepts and identify features of historic homes in Lafayette Square before capturing the house in an original sketch and watercolor painting as an interdisciplinary project with writing | Create wire sculptures inspired by American artist Alexander Calder | Investigate 3-dimensional form, creating realist plates of food with clay | Investigate Earth Day and how artists can better care for the earth while creating a recycled materials sculpture | Create relief prints of animals researched in writing class for the traditional, interdisciplinary mammal project

Music

Begin transferring knowledge of notation to reading music on instruments | Develop understanding of sixteenth notes and rests as well as all dotted rhythms | Explore barred instruments | Play xylophones and glockenspiels to demonstrate understanding of the treble clef | Identify and perform accidentals when reading music | Explore the instruments, history, and cultural significance of music in several world cultures across the globe, including Native and Latin American, African, Indian, Middle Eastern, and Asian cultures | Develop rhythm, leadership, and awareness of interdependence by performing five different percussion instruments in an African drumming unit | Learn how to play the recorder and how to perform various songs on the instrument | Foster active listening skills through solfege pitch matching exercises | Build confidence performing in front of classmates | Learn and perform in whole school concerts and performances

Spanish

Continue personal Spanish language dictionaries | Complete independent Spanish reading with comprehensible readers | Learn about the love of soccer in Spanish culture | Play traditional games from around the Spanish-speaking world and learn game-play and sportsmanship vocabulary | Engage with folktales and legends from the Spanish-speaking world | Tell the date and the time in Spanish

Resources include: Mundo de Pepita Spanish mini-books | Storyteller's Corner Comprehensible Readers | Rockalingua

Library

Explain the significance of the Mark Twain Award | Use the library automation system with growing proficiency | Locate nonfiction books to support classroom instruction | Explore Digital Citizenship concepts including personal information, online interactions, and creator rights and responsibilities | Collaborate with core subjects on research methods and works cited practices

Physical Education

Our upper school curriculum is a sports based curriculum where students will move from skill development towards skill application. From our third to sixth grade, our curriculum fosters teamwork, character, and sportsmanship while also building individual skills and fitness in our students.

Units include: Soccer, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Volleyball, Tumbling, Floor Hockey, Basketball, Dance, Racquet Sports, Track & Field, Softball, Cross Country, Fishing, Climbing, and Fitness

Specialty Subject Schedule

Science — 45 minutes, 4 times a week

Social Studies -- 45 minutes, 4 times a week

Art — 45 minutes, 2 times a week

Music — 45 minutes, 2 times a week

Spanish — 45 minutes, 2 times a week

Library — 45 minutes, once weekly

Physical Education — 45 minutes daily