Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide

INSPIRE⚓ LEARN⚓ ACHIEVE

TOGETHER

4th Grade Curriculum Guide

The mission of the Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future.

Language Arts

Bennington Public Schools is committed to helping all students become successful readers, writers, listeners, and speakers.
Students will be provided with reading skills based on both the structure of language and the meaning of language in context that they can apply.
Bennington students will become independent readers, writers, listeners, and speakers through a balanced literacy instructional program.

Reading

Bennington Public Schools has adopted the McGraw Hill Series called Reading Wonders. In this series, the students explore vocabulary with each unit and use a wide variety of reading skills and strategies to help with comprehension and understanding of the text. Wonders stresses the importance of finding text evidence to support responses. There are also guided reading books which allow the students to explore reading more at their own level of personal reading. All skills taught meet the state reading standards and help each student grow as a personal reader. Accelerated Reader is used as an outside supplementation to our reading program by setting and achieving quarterly goals.

Keyboarding

EduTyping Jr. will be implemented as the Keyboarding curriculum. Keyboarding instruction will be taught in Media and additional support will be provided in the classroom.

Handwriting

Handwriting Zaner Bloser Handwriting is the curriculum Bennington has adopted to teach students to write legibly. We use this curriculum to help students write letters, words and sentences that are legible to writers and readers. Students will be asked to evaluate their own writing and use techniques to help them develop and improve their writing skills.

Writing

At Bennington Public Schools, 4th grade curriculum will use 'Being a Writer' from the Center for the Collaborative Classroom. The students learn and apply elements of the following genres: narrative writing, expository nonfiction, opinion writing, poetry, and functional nonfiction. The writing program encompasses the 6 + 1 trait writing model. The writing block is set up as a workshop model, writing every day and conferencing with peers and the teacher.

Spelling/Grammar

Bennington Public Schools has adopted the spelling & grammar curriculum from Wonders. For spelling, the students' instruction will focus on spelling patterns, writing applications, and word analysis. There is a weekly spelling list that the students will be tested over at the end of the week. The students spelling words will be presented as sentence dictation. For grammar, the curriculum supports the students' acquisition of grammar, usage, and mechanics skills. There is a weekly skill that will include daily practice followed by a sentence dictation for assessment.

Math

Bennington Public Schools uses the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum that equips teachers to fully implement the standard for mathematics in a manner that is rigorous, coherent, engaging, and accessible to all learners. The curriculum focuses on developing students' deep understandings of mathematical concepts, proficiency with key skills, and ability to solve complex problems. Students in fourth grade will focus on multiplicative thinking, multi-digit multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, addition, subtraction, measurement, geometry and data.

Nebraska Studies

Bennington Public Schools uses Pearson's "My World: Nebraska" as curriculum to teach about Nebraska's geography, history, and Nebraska today. Map skills are incorporated daily through Evan-Moor's "Daily Geography Practice: Grade 4".

Science

The 4th grade science curriculum is based upon state and locally approved standards for student learning, as with all subject areas. Our curriculum will be taken from the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Science Fusion series, along with additional teacher supplemented learning experiences. We will be covering Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science.

Assessment of Learning

Fourth grade students will be assessed throughout the year using NWEA Map Benchmarking assessments. They follow student's progress from the fall, winter, and springtime. Students will also be benchmarked a guided reading level using the Fountas & Pinnell system. A comprehensive fourth grade standard based assessment will be administered in the spring.

Physical Education

The primary purpose of the physical education program is to provide students with the opportunities to gain the knowledge, understanding, and skills to practice healthy physical activities throughout their lives. All students are taught to work together and treat others with respect and good sportsmanship.

Art

The elementary art curriculum encompasses the Art Elements and Design Principles in a comprehensive art education model and uses the National Art Standards.

Focus

Unit 1: Line and Shape
Unit 2: Space and Form
Unit 3: Color
Unit 4: Texture, Pattern and Rhythm

Unit 5: Space, Proportion and Distortion
Unit 6: Balance, Variety, Unity and Harmony
Elements
Line – Sketch
Color – Monochromatic
Shape – Two Dimensional
Value – Tints & Shades
Space – Background, Foreground, & Middle ground Positive & Negative Space
Form – Three Dimensional
Principles
Proportion – Knee's & Elbows
Balance – Radial Balance
Contrast – Shape Contrast
Unity/Variety – A Cohesive Unit

Guidance and Counseling

Guidance classes as well as small group lessons and individual guidance assistance are an integral part of the school curriculum. Guidance lessons are designed to promote student growth in three areas: social/emotional domain, academic/educational domain, and career/occupational domain. The school counselor works with staff and parents in various ways to support a positive school experience for all students.

Music

General Music Fourth - Sixth Grades Content Standards
All standards in K-3 apply and sequential learning will build on that foundation.
● Demonstrate basic vocal technique through performance.
Sing a diatonic song with pitch accuracy
Sing harmony, descant, two-part, three-part singing
Use correct posture.
● Reading and notation of melody and rhythm.
Use rhythm patterns that include syncopated and dotted rhythms
Pick up and Down beat
6/8 time signature, mixed meters, asymmetrical meters, cut time
Sixteenths, triplet, polyrhythms
Ledger lines, octave, Bass clef, Grand staff, intervals, note stems
Whole steps, half steps, tonic
Major and minor scales and chords, Chromatic scale
Enharmonic equivalents
● Perform on pitched and unpitched instruments, recognize instruments by sight & sound
Play melody or harmony on instrument (4th grade- recorders)
Recognize individual instruments by sight and sound
● Introducing the structural components of form and harmony.

Countermelody, round, descant, 4 part harmony
Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass
Chords: I, IV, V, V7
Accompanied, unaccompanied, accapella, unison
Texture, monophony, homophony, polyphony
Fugue, sequence, D.C., and D.S.al fine, Coda
First and second (etc.) Endings

- Composing, arranging and improvising melodies, rhythms, variations and accompaniments within specified guidelines.

Together as a class and/or as an individual
- Listening to, analyzing, evaluating and describing music and music performances and styles.

Listening to and/or performing many different genres of musical style
- Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Technology

Skills Mastered at Fourth Grade

- Log into and out of the network using correct user name

- Open a new or saved document

- Understand how to print a document

- Follow district guidelines for use of computers

- Apply editing techniques (e.g. spell-check, copy, cut paste)

- Use spellchecker

- Use different fonts and styles

- Use of the tab button

- Insert clip art into documents

- Develop graphic organizers for multimedia productions

- Incorporate multiple components into multimedia projects (e.g. sound, graphics)

- Create developmentally appropriate multimedia projects

- Demonstrate beginning online search strategies

- Enter a URL

- Bookmark sites

4th Grade Discipline Procedures

The fourth grade teachers use a clipboard for discipline problems and assignments. If a student has a discipline problem or a late assignment, they will be asked to write their name on the clipboard. If the student should get their name on the clipboard more than three times in one day, they will be referred to the principal, fill out a Discipline with Purpose Problem-Solving form, and receive a detention. If a student is on the clipboard five times in one week, they will receive a detention.