

Fourth Grade Curriculum Guide



Pine

Creek

Elementary

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

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

McGraw-Hill Reading Wonders ©2014

Grade Levels K - 5

Unlock the Wonders of Reading

Reading Wonders is designed specifically for the State Standards for Reading/Language Arts. Combining research-based instruction with new tools to meet today's challenges, every component and every lesson is designed for effective and efficient instruction.

The program provides support for

- Building a strong reading foundation
- Accessing complex text
- Finding and using text evidence
- Engaging in collaborative conversations
- Writing to sources

Using a rich range of diverse print and digital media, *Wonders* provides the instructional support and materials that were created to teach the rigor, intent, and depth of the new State Standards.

The following literature books are also part of the 4th grade reading program and are used in conjunction with the state reading standards to meet requirements.

- Be a Perfect Person in just Three Days
- Charlotte's Web
- Bunnica
- Sarah Plain and Tall
- Caleb's Story
- Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing
- Mr. Popper's Penguins
- Because of Winn Dixie
- Mockingbird
- Stone Fox
- Superfudge
- Ramona Quimby
- Deep, Dark and Dangerous

We use many different activities that encourage reading including sustained silent reading, followed by discussion, partner reading, and many other innovative ideas.

Accelerated Reader (AR)

AR is used as an outside supplementation to our reading program by setting and achieving

quarterly goals. Students earn dojo dollars each time they earn 10 points. We hold a party at the end of the year for any student reaching 80 points or higher.

Spelling

Sitton Spelling is the chosen program of Bennington Public Schools. It consists of a 4th grade priority word list that the students will continue to practice throughout the year. Students practice spelling rules and concepts and most importantly correct spelling in their writing with special attention to editing.

Writing

Fourth grade is assessed in writing using a text dependent analysis format. Throughout the year, they will be working with the Six-Trait model.

- Instruction in the Six-Trait Writing + 1 Model
 - voice
 - ideas
 - word choice
 - organization
 - fluency
 - conventions
 - presentation
- Modeled and shared writing
- Interactive writing
- Independent writing

Math

Bennington Public Schools uses Envisions Math. It consists of whole group, small group, hands-on, and center activities. There is a technology component that is used at school and at home.

Mission:

The mission of Mathematics Education in BPS is to provide students with a learning environment that prepares them to be mathematically literate, possess problem solving skills, apply strategies, and utilize resources to meet the challenges of today's diverse, technological world.

Beliefs:

- Mathematics develops a foundation of number sense, which includes computational fluency and estimation.
- Mathematics provides a basic understanding of key concepts and principles of geometry, algebra, probability, and data analysis.
- Mathematics develops strong problem solving and reasoning abilities to communicate mathematically.

- Mathematics develops the ability to use appropriate resources to solve mathematical problems.
- Mathematics provides the opportunity to learn through exploration, hands on activities, and the utilization of technology.
- Mathematics develops student awareness of the relevance of concepts and skills necessary for future endeavors.

Science

The 4th grade science curriculum includes Plant Structure and Function, Animal Structure and Function, Energy in Ecosystems, Surviving the Environment in the Life Science area. We measure Matter, Electricity, Light and Sound, in the Physical Science area. The textbook which has been chosen by Bennington Public Schools, is based upon state and locally approved standards.

Social Studies

During the first quarter of 4th grade students will be studying the regions of the United States, maps, globes and continents. The rest of the year is dedicated to Nebraska History. Students are required to write a report on a notable Nebraskan that follows the steps of report writing. In the spring students will visit the state capitol in Lincoln, Morrill Hall on UNL campus, and have a pioneer day.

Assessment of Learning

The 4th grade assesses students according to procedures in its local assessment plan which meets the assessment requirements specified by the Nebraska Department of Education's Rule 10: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools.

There are local assessments for each of the state standards. There are also state wide assessments that the students must complete and master.

Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) tests in the areas of Math, Reading, Science and Language will be administered three times a year.

NeSA (Nebraska State Accountability) in Reading and Math are administered during the Spring.

Daily scores and test scores are entered into the grading system on a point basis. Progress reports and quarterly report cards will then reflect the percentage earned from those points. Reading, Math, Spelling, and Language Arts all earn a letter grade/percent. Science, Social Studies and all specials earn an O, S, or N.

Moodle

Pine Creek's fourth grade has created a Moodle site for students to find information, play educational games, and complete assessments. Currently this website is used for Reading and Math. A link to it is found on the Bennington Public Schools page.

Specials

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.

Guidance and Counseling

Once a week in Bennington Public Schools, our elementary guidance counselor will come to the classroom. The curriculum our district uses for our guidance program is through the Mendez Foundation. In the fall we do a program entitled Too Good for Violence, and in the spring we do Too Good for Drugs. Topics such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, bullying, and peer pressure are covered. In addition, we learn about creating a healthy lifestyle through friendship, effective communication, self-care, and managing emotions. We teach these subjects through role-plays, games, and activities.

Supplemental topics beyond our Mendez curriculum are also studied such as career exploration, academic success, empathy/self-esteem, safety and stranger danger.

In addition to classroom guidance instruction, our counselor is available to work with individual students and small groups. Groups are available for topics such as learning social skills, making friends, coping with grief/loss and adjusting to divorce/separation.

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

MUSIC

The Mission of Bennington's Music Department is to engage students in the study of music, giving them the opportunity to be creative in an environment that fosters self-expression, teamwork and cultural diversity.

	4th Grade
Rhythm	 Anacrusis Identify 6/8 Syncopation
Melody/Pitch	Fa Note Names
Form	Partner Songs Theme and variation Instrumental canon
Texture/ Harmony	I chord Level Bordun
Expression	Staccato Tempo markings Recorder articulations
History/Style/ Timbre	Recorder Instrument families

National Standards for Music Education

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. 2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. 3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments. 4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines. 5. Reading and notating music. 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music. 7. Evaluating music and music performances. 8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts. 9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

Library and Technology

Students will have a weekly Library class where they will learn technology and library skills. They will have the opportunity to check out books to return the following week.

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
- Access and use Google accounts appropriately

Spanish

	UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3
KINDERGARTEN	Numbers 1-10	Colors (primary)	Shapes and sizes
FIRST GRADE	Numbers 1-20	Colors (all)	Body parts
SECOND GRADE	Numbers 1-30	School supplies	Family members
THIRD GRADE	Numbers 1-100	Places in the school and giving directions	Alphabet
FOURTH GRADE	Ordinal numbers and review numbers 1-100	School supplies	Family members and describing them using adjectives.
FIFTH GRADE	Numbers 1-1000	Telling time	Likes/dislikes and sports

*Students will receive a “Spanish Squares” sheet at the beginning of each unit. It consists of 5 tasks or skills the students are to master by the end of the unit. Students are asked to practice the skills every day at home and return the individual Squares signed, when they have mastered the task/skill. Parent involvement, support and, encouragement in this process not only increases student acquisition of Spanish but also gives students an increased sense of confidence.

*Please access our Spanish website for vocabulary lists, copies of assignments, and copies of the Spanish Squares. The website also has additional practice for students.

WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://bennington.ishareinfo.org/kadeshina/index.cfm>

4th Grade Discipline Procedures

Discipline with Purpose

The district uses the Discipline with Purpose curriculum to teach and promote self-discipline in and out of the classroom. There are fifteen self-discipline skills that give the students fifteen opportunities to “WAIT” and make the right choice. The skills are categorized in three skill areas: Basic Skills, Constructive Skills, and Generative Skills. A skill is taught and revisited each month.

Basic Skills-listening, following instructions, questioning, sharing-time,space, people & things, and basic social skills

Constructive Skills-cooperating with others, understanding the rules, completing a task, exhibiting leadership, and communicating effectively

Generative Skills-organizing-time, space, people & things, resolving mutual problems, taking the initiative in problem solving, distinguishing fact from feeling, and sacrificing and serving others.

DOJO

Pine Creek has adopted Class DOJO as a school-wide discipline program that correlates with the Discipline with Purpose skills. This program records positive points for the student when demonstrating Discipline with Purpose skills. It also records needs improvement when a child has not met the expectation of the skills. This program helps Pine Creek create a positive culture school-wide, it gives students a voice to show off their skills and classwork, and helps share information with parents along with class videos and photos of wonderful classroom moments.

In fourth grade, three negative dojos in one day or six negative dojos in a week will result in a detention. Detentions are served on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:15-3:45.

Actions that would result in a negative marking of dojo: late or missing assignments, not having their planner signed, being disrespectful, not following classroom rules, or not being a good DWP student.

Dojo dollars are used as incentives. Students can earn dollars/positive dojo marks for good behavior, good grades, random acts of kindness, not having any negative dojo marks. Each week, the classroom store will be open to purchase items with their earned dojo dollars.