

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

The 2023-24 Year at a Glance for Grade 4 helps to organize the units of study in each subject that our grade 4 students will engage in throughout the year. Educators utilize the [MA Curriculum Frameworks](#) to design standards-aligned units of study for each subject. The units are rigorous, yet developmentally appropriate with learning experiences that allow students to achieve their personal best as they strive to meet and exceed grade level expectations.

Canton Public Schools 2023-2024: Grade 4 Curriculum Guide 6/14/23											
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	
Reading	Interpreting Characters		Reading the "Regions" Research		Reading Complex Text Text Tasting		Details and Synthesis		Historical Fiction Book Clubs		
Word Study	Patterns of Power Lessons 1-10 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 11-21 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 22-34 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 35-47 & Spelling Connections		Patterns of Power Lessons 48-60 & Spelling Connections		
Writing	The Arc of the Story		Boxes & Bullets		Written Responses & Text Dependent Questions		Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction		Narrative Writing: Historical Fiction		
Social Studies	Topic 1: North America: Geography and map skills		Topic 4: Regions: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, West		Topic 2: Ancient Civilization		Topic 3: Early European exploration and conquest (Westward Expansion)				
Math	Launch Routines Math Is... Unit 1	Number and Operations in Base 10 Place Value- Unit 2	Operations and Algebraic Thinking Addition & Subtraction- Unit 3 Comparison- Unit 4 Benchmark Assessment Number Patterns- Unit 5 Strategies with Multi-digit Numbers- Unit 6 Division- Unit 7 Benchmark Assessment			Number and Operations- Fractions Fraction Equivalence- Unit 8 Addition and Subtraction- Unit 9 Addition and Subtraction with Mixed Numbers- Unit 10 Benchmark Assessment Multiply Fractions by Whole Numbers- Unit 11 Decimal Fractions- Unit 12		Measurement & Data Units of Measurement and Data- Unit 13	Geometry Geometric Figures Unit 14 Reveal Summative		
Science	Launching Routines Engineering Design	Earth and Space Science: Weathering and Erosion			Physical Science: Energy				Physical Science: Waves		
Universal Screener & Grading	9/11-9/22 STAR Reading Math	CBM By 9/29	Parent Conference 11/16 & 11/17	Term ends 12/1	01/02-1/12 Reading Math	CBM By 1/19	Term ends 3/12	Parent Conference 4/4 & 4/5	5/06-5/17 Reading Math	CBM By 5/31	Term ends 6/3

The timelines shared in the chart are approximate, the timeframes listed are not intended to be unit deadlines. Teachers may adjust the length of a unit based on student learning needs. Some units may take longer if students need more time and instruction, while others may be shortened if students are ready to move forward with their learning sooner.

Literacy in Grade 4

Literacy instruction in Grade 4 is designed around the Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop model of instruction which fosters student independence, confidence and a love of reading. Instruction is often designed around a core text, called the mentor text, for each unit, which allows teachers to build community around learning in specific areas driven by the grade level expectations. Then, by offering choice and access to engaging, challenging and thought provoking literature with a range of reading levels, students

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

learn, both independently and in small groups, to read, discuss and respond in writing, as they build a strong foundation of skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Using the [MA English Language Arts and Literacy Framework](#) as our guide, educators draw from a variety of sources to design for instruction in reading, writing and word study.

In order to ensure a consistent student experience across classrooms and schools, elementary teachers mainly use a reading and writing curriculum designed by Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University. Teachers will use additional resources to enhance their instruction from a variety of district provided programs. We are continually updating our classroom libraries to provide students with access to high quality, diverse and engaging literature while providing students with opportunities to choose what they are reading.

Reading

Interpreting Characters: The Heart of the Story

In grade 4 we launch the year with a unit that focuses on fiction. In this unit, children study the complexity of characters and explore themes while developing skills such as inference and interpretation.

Reading the Regions Research

This unit provides students an opportunity to connect with their social studies learning about the regions of the United States of America, as they learn to read and understand nonfiction texts, focusing on important text features and details that can help to build their ability to learn information by reading. Students will learn important research skills, taking notes while reading and integrating information from a variety of sources.

Reading Complex Text ("Text Tasting")

In this unit, students practice their skills in close reading of complex texts to read a variety of genres. Students draw upon the many skills they have acquired in grade four to read and respond to challenging texts as they prepare for their MCAS assessments.

Details & Synthesis

During this unit, students move through varying levels of text complexity while deepening their skills of inference and interpretation. The unit encourages students to use what they know about character and theme to read increasingly challenging books with

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

greater independence. Students analyze how parts of a story relate to the whole while interpreting fiction texts in more depth.

Historical Fiction Book Clubs

In the final unit of the year, students work with the mentor text to become deeply immersed in the historical fiction genre and further develop their knowledge base in social studies topics, particularly around the topic of Westward Expansion in the US. They then work in book clubs to practice reading analytically, synthesizing complicated narratives, comparing and contrasting themes, and incorporating nonfiction research into their reading.

Writing

The Writer's Workshop units are closely aligned with the reading units and support students in developing their skills in writing in three important areas: narrative, informational, and persuasive writing.

The Arc of the Story

The first unit of the year provides an opportunity to reflect on all that they have learned about narrative writing thus far and asks students to develop a story with believable characters with struggles and motivations, as they learn to draft rich stories with strong details and well developed ideas.

Boxes and Bullets: Personal and Persuasive Essays

In this unit, students learn the value of organization and form as they gather evidence to support and express an opinion on topics they know well.

Written Responses and Text Dependent Questions

In this unit, students use all of the strategies they have learned to write essay responses to the complex texts that they are reading in the corresponding reading unit. Students will hone their skills for on demand writing as they compose focused short essays that are clear and concise in the three types of writing- narrative, informational and persuasive, as they respond to focused question prompts to prepare for the open response questions on the MCAS assessment.

Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction

In this unit, students build on their learning of essay writing and apply it with increasing sophistication as they write essays about fiction. The unit coincides with their reading

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

work, as they learn to pay close attention to the characters in a story, learning to take notes to track character traits, motivations, struggles, changes and life lessons. They learn to develop a thesis based on the big ideas across a story, and to support their thesis with meaningful evidence. Students also gain insight into the development of a theme across a text.

Up the Ladder: Narrative Writing

Students draw on their prior experience with story writing to develop narratives that are longer and stronger. This unit coincides with our historical fiction book clubs, providing students an opportunity to write from the perspective of the characters they are studying.

Word Study

In grade 4, students also engage in learning that addresses the MA ELA standards for language, which includes work in conventions of standard English, knowledge of language, and vocabulary acquisition and use. Teachers draw resources from a variety of sources to address this work in ELA as well as in the other subject areas, as students learn content specific vocabulary.

In ELA, teachers use two main resources to drive their instruction:

Grammar and Conventions: *Patterns of Power*

Students study authentic texts and come to recognize these “patterns of power”—the essential grammar conventions that readers and writers require to make meaning.

Spelling: *Spelling Connections: A Word Study Approach* © 2022

This program teaches students common spelling patterns—the letter and sound combinations they need to know as they learn new words. As students learn how to recognize and anticipate syllable patterns, they apply these learned rules to words at their current grade level as well as to increasingly complex words.

Math

The [MA Curriculum Framework for Math](#) provides guidance around the standards and grade level expectations for student learning in math. We will be implementing a new

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

math curriculum this year, using the McGraw Hill Reveal Math program. Reveal Math®, a balanced elementary math program, develops the problem solvers of tomorrow by incorporating both inquiry-focused and teacher-guided instructional strategies within each lesson.

Reveal Math in grade 4 engages students across 14 standards-aligned units:

Unit 1- Math Is...

Unit 2- Place Value

Unit 3- Addition and Subtraction

Unit 4- Comparison

Unit 5- Number Patterns

Unit 6- Strategies with Multi-digit Numbers

Unit 7- Division

Unit 8- Equivalence

Unit 9- Addition and Subtraction

Unit 10- Addition and Subtraction with Mixed Numbers

Unit 11- Multiply Fractions by Whole Numbers

Unit 12- Decimal Fractions

Unit 13- Measurement and Data

Unit 14- Geometric Figures

Science

The [MA Curriculum Frameworks for Science and Technology/Engineering](#) guide our unit development in Science. There are four units that address science learning in grade 4.

Engineering Design

Students begin their year of science learning by working through the Engineering Design Process with a series of hands-on activities. These inquiry-based activities allow students to build skills of brainstorming, designing solutions, creating prototypes, communicating their solutions, and redesigning based on feedback and testing.

Weathering and Erosion

In this unit, students interpret patterns of change over time as related to the deposition and erosion in landscape formation. They study today's landscapes to provide evidence for past processes. Topics include mechanical weathering, erosion and deposition, and analysis of Earth's natural features (ie tectonic plates, mountain ranges) with its natural events (ie earthquakes, volcanoes).

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

Energy

In this unit, students will study renewable and non-renewable energy resources, kinetic energy, energy transfer, and the conservation of energy. They will collaboratively develop and revise models to construct their understanding of the transfer and conversion of energy through motion, heat, light, sound, and electric currents. With these understandings and engineering skills, students will explain how the physical world around them works and they work to solve problems regarding how humans harness the power of energy.

Waves

Students study the properties of waves as patterns of motion along which energy can travel. Students design and create models to communicate information via sound and light and explore how objects are seen by reflected light entering the eye.

Social Studies

In 2018, new Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks were released including an emphasis on “stronger attention to the intersection of history, social science, and literacy instruction, through the inclusion of literacy standards for history and social science.” To that end, whenever possible students engage in interdisciplinary units involving reading and writing and presentations connected to the following topics:

North America: Geography and map skills

Students will learn about the physical features and nations of North America.

Expansions of the US and its regions today:

Students will engage in a strong interdisciplinary unit that asks students to deeply engage with the genre of non-fiction in an effort to learn more about the various regions of the United States including the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West and Southwest.

Ancient Civilizations of North America

In this unit, students will study how archaeologists conduct research to develop theories about ancient civilizations. They will learn about some native people and cultures that have inhabited the North American continent for thousands of years.

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

Early European Exploration and Westward Expansion in the US

In this final unit, students will ponder what the reasons might be for European voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. This unit also takes a dive into an interdisciplinary approach to learning about how the west was expanded, motivations for why people moved westward, and a look at the impact on native people who already lived in that area of the United States.

Social Emotional Learning

The Wayfinder curriculum is used throughout the year to support our students' social and emotional learning (SEL). Lessons across the year are designed to support student learning in 6 important areas: adaptability, self-awareness, collaboration, empathy, agency, and purpose.

Wayfinder Mindsets: In the first module of the year, students play some games to begin to get to know each other and explore how we would like to build a classroom culture where we all feel seen, heard and respected.

Wayfinder Skills:

Confidence and Competence: Collaboration is an important skill in fourth grade and beyond. In this module, students reflect on who they are, understand roles they take on and practice working together.

Ownership and Empathy: We are more powerful than we may realize. In this module, we practice ownership by exploring responsibility, anger, forgiveness, and the impact we have on others.

Belonging and Community: We all have power to make someone feel safe and supported. In this module, students explore strengths and focus on creating belonging in our classroom community.

Reflections: Students end the year reflecting on what we've learned, celebrating and appreciating one another.

Assessment and Grading

Canton Public Schools

Curriculum Overview

Grade 4

Universal Screening

Students in grade 4 will be assessed with our universal screener, STAR 360, in the fall, winter and spring. The STAR Reading and STAR Math assessments help to identify students who are At/Above Benchmark, On Watch, or Below Benchmark, so that appropriate support and personalized learning opportunities can be utilized to support individual growth. Parent reports are sent home to share the results with each testing period.

Students who are identified as Below Benchmark are also assessed using the STAR CBM, which measures specific skills in reading and math that are foundational to student learning.

Formative Assessments

Educators use a variety of other formative assessments to assess student learning and progress towards grade level standards. In ELA and Math, there are other diagnostic assessments that are used to glean more specific information about students' abilities.

Reports Cards

Elementary report cards are issued three times each year in December, March and June. For specific report card dates, please see the district calendar.