

A Parent's Guide To Our Fourth Grade Program

Central Square Central School District
Central Square, NY 13036



Welcome!

To Central Square Central School District Families,

The best educational opportunities are provided when families and the school are partners in the educational process. In order to attain this goal, students are provided with a supportive learning environment focusing on: high expectations; meaningful relationships; real-life learning experiences; and respect for individual differences.

This guide provides an overview of what your child is expected to learn by the completion of this grade level. Since children learn in different ways and at various rates, teaching methods and the amount of time spent on a subject will vary from student to student and from class to class. It is important to realize that the outcomes listed are on a continuum. Some children will attain them more quickly than others.

The following skills, from our K-12 written curricula, are based on the K-12 New York State Learning Standards, and reflect the minimum skills most students will master at this grade level. During a student's education, these and additional skills will continually be reinforced and enriched. Although the skills and concepts are listed in separate subject areas, they will be integrated with other subjects when possible.*

Each elementary school in the Central Square Central School District strives to help all students reach their personal best. Working together we can reach our goal – your child's personal best.

** Other skills are introduced and/or developed at each grade level.*

Fourth Grade Skills Guide

Table of Contents

English/Language Arts	1
Mathematics	3
Science	4
Social Studies	5
Health	6
Technology	8
Art	9
Music	9
Library and Media	11
Physical Education	11
Parental Support	13

English/Language Arts

READING SKILLS

Phonics – decodes/encodes unknown words

- Identifies and pronounces letter combinations to make a word
- Uses letter combinations to write words

Reading Strategies – uses a variety to gain meaning

- Uses a variety of reading strategies independently (e.g. interprets illustrations, makes predictions, uses context clues, uses sound/letter relationships to make sure they have the right word, and self-corrects reading errors)

Fluency – reads with appropriate speed, accuracy and expression

- Reads like they are having a conversation

Comprehension – understands and interprets text read

- Carries on a conversation about what they read

Vocabulary – reads and understands grade-level words

- Learns and uses new words in a variety of ways

WRITING SKILLS

Conventions of Writing – writes a composition

- Writes a composition with an introduction, body, and conclusion

English/Language Arts (cont.)

Writing Process – writes, revises, edits, publishes

- Brainstorms ideas, writes and revises a rough draft, and produces a final, legible piece of writing

Grammar – writes grammatically correct sentences

- Applies a variety of grammar skills independently when writing

Spelling – spells words correctly in daily work

- Uses resources such as spell check, dictionary, word wall, thesaurus, etc.

Composition – writes for a variety of purposes

- Writes for a purpose: to describe; to inform; to persuade; or to entertain
- Writes in various formats (i.e. letter, poetry, essay, DBQ, notes, research report, book report, project)

Handwriting – writes legibly

LISTENING SKILLS

- Listens attentively for an extended period of time
- Follows multi-step directions

SPEAKING SKILLS

- Uses appropriate voice level and quality
- Responds appropriately during discussions
- Uses appropriate communication skills
- Paraphrases information

Mathematics

- Identifies, draws, describes geometric figures
- Knows addition and subtraction facts
- Adds and subtracts multidigit numbers
- Constructs bar graphs
- Reads and writes large numbers
- Knows multiplication facts
- Uses bar graphs to find median, range and mode
- Solves addition and subtraction number stories
- Adds and subtracts decimals
- Draws and measures to nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ cm and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch
- Multiplies multidigit whole numbers
- Solves division number stories
- Divides multidigit numbers by 1 digit divisors
- Writes equivalent fractions
- Compares and orders fractions
- Names fractions of regions or collections
- Plots coordinates on a grid
- Calculates expected probability of an event
- Finds the area and perimeter of geometric shapes
- Identifies and applies properties of symmetry
- Gives fraction, decimal and percent equivalents
- Adds and subtracts fractions
- Describes, compares and classifies solid figures
- Compares and orders integers
- Solves rate problems using rate tables
- Calculates volume

Science

The Human Organism

- Describes the function of the skeletal system and that skeletal muscles are attached to bones
- Identifies the three different types of muscles

Diversity of Living Things

- Compares and records stages of life cycles

Ecology and Evolution

- Identifies factors and outcomes that created changes in habitats
- Describes relationships among food chains in a food web

Earth's History/Rocks and Minerals

- Identifies organisms that lived during different time periods
- Recognizes igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary, and fossilized rocks and how they were formed

Meteorology

- Understands how a water cycle works
- Explains weather related terms such as high/low pressure, cold/warm fronts, and identifies how cloud formations are related to weather

Matter

- Draws and labels an atom and its parts (neutron, proton, and electron)
- Understands that some substances conduct heat differently

Force & Motion

- Recognizes and constructs magnets, electromagnets and explores polarity
- Explores the types of materials that are affected by magnets

Science (cont.) / Social Studies

Energy

- Identifies forms of energy, including chemicals, mechanical, nuclear, electrical, and heat (in addition to sound and light energy)
- Compares and differentiates between these terms: static/current electricity, conductors/insulators, open/closed circuits, and makes a series circuit

Social Studies

History of the United States and New York

- Discusses the important accomplishments and contributions of the Iroquois and Algonquian cultures in our region and gives examples of the continuing influences of these groups
- Identifies major explorers of New York State
- Compares the settlements of the Dutch, English and French in New York
- Creates a timeline of the major events leading to Revolutionary War and explains their connections
- Explains how transportation helped in development of New York State
- Demonstrates an understanding of the construction of the Erie Canal and its impact on New York State's economy
- Explains the importance of Ellis Island in the management of the new immigrants
- Explains the reasons for people to migrate from rural to urban to suburban areas

Geography

- Locates New York State and the eastern and western hemispheres on a map and globe
- Uses a New York State map to locate and label major cities, waterways, mountain ranges, borders

Social Studies (cont.) / Health

Economics

- Explains how human needs and wants differ through New York State history
- Differentiates between a natural resource and a product
- Gives examples of types of taxes and how they are used
- Explains economic vocabulary

Civics, Citizenship and Government

- Defines terms in relation to government
- Explains the importance of the United States and New York State Constitutions
- Develops an understanding of the fundamental values of American democracy
- Explains the rights and responsibilities of US citizenship
- Explains separation of powers and the basic functions of each branch
- Explains the system of checks and balances
- Gives examples of those government officials that are elected and those that are appointed
- Explains the significance of community landmarks, memorials, local, state and national symbols, and important national holidays

Health

Safety/First Aid/Survival

- Develops strategies for an emergency exit plan in a variety of situations
- Identifies safe practices appropriate to a variety of recreational and sporting activities (e.g. ATV riding, skateboarding, snowboarding, snowmobiling, scooter riding)

Health (cont.)

- Describes how to prepare for a hike in the woods (i.e. preventive measures)

Hygiene and Fitness

- Describes ways to maintain healthy eyes/ears
- Lists examples of major muscle groups (i.e. arms, legs, stomach, back)
- Identifies the four components of physical fitness

Human Growth and Development

- Describes how the body changes as it grows
- Compares some of the different factors that affect growth

Child Abduction, Abuse and Personal Safety

- Explains the importance of telling an adult about a secret involving inappropriate advances and touches
- Identifies strategies to respond to tricks used to lure children into dangerous situations
- Demonstrates safe strategies when home alone or no adult present

Mental and Emotional Health

- Identifies things that make people angry
- Compares and contrasts positive and negative peer influences
- Describes the different ways the body responds to stress

Nutrition

- Compares ethnic foods for their nutritional value

Health (cont.) / Technology

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs

- Explains the important parts of prescription and over the counter labels
- Lists reasons why alcohol is an unhealthy choice for children
- Identifies tobacco as an unhealthy choice

Diseases and Disorders

- Describes ways germs enter the body
- Recognizes that HIV/AIDS is a communicable disease which is difficult to contract
- Explains what HIV stands for
- Recognizes that HIV is the virus that causes AIDS
- Explains what AIDS stands for

Environmental

- Classifies types of pollution
- Identifies ways to protect hearing from the harmful effects of loud noise

Community Health

- Identifies local agencies and their role in promoting health care

Technology

Technology skills are integrated throughout our curriculum.

Art / Music

Color

- Students will be introduced to neutral colors
- Students will learn how to mix tints and shades

Line

- Students will use hidden line to show movement
- Students will be introduced to the concept that lines can show motion

Shape and Form

- Students will learn how to make radial designs with shapes

Texture

- Students will create 3-dimensional textures

Space

- Students will learn the concept of: foreground, middle ground and background

Music

Students completing fourth grade general music will demonstrate the ability to:

Melody

- Discriminate between definite and indefinite pitch
- Aurally and visually identify octave leap
- Perform melodic rhythm, sequence, imitation and ostinato
- Create simple melodies
- Create original verses

Music (cont.)

Rhythm

- Recognize and perform a fermata
- Recognize and perform: dotted quarter note, eighth rest
- Recognize and perform syncopation

Tone Color

- Recognize and perform duet, trio and chorus
- Aurally and visually identify all traditional orchestral instruments

Expressive Qualities

- Experience and musically evaluate music of diverse styles and cultures
- Recognize that style differences are determined by rhythm, melody, and tone color
- Realize the relationship of terms describing performance style, tempo
- Recognize and perform: p, f, mp, mf, as expressive choice

Form

- Perform a ballad
- Create a call and response, introduction and coda

Movement

- Move to show meter and form
- Perform conducting movements while walking

Library and Media / Physical Education

Students in fourth grade will be expected to demonstrate good library citizenship, appropriate circulation procedures and show a knowledge of library organization. They will continue to use a variety of sources and use specific parts of books to locate information. They will continue learning about literary genre and elements.

Information Seeking Strategies:

- Uses interlibrary loan
- Uses primary and secondary sources

Location and Access

- Uses the glossary and works cited in books
- Uses search engines to locate information on the Internet

Information Use

- Uses interviewing as a technique for gathering information

Physical Education

Physical Skills

- Throws an object with proper form and accuracy
- Catches objects of varying sizes
- Catches and throws objects while moving
- Strikes a moving object
- Performs locomotor movement in games and activities
- Dribbles a variety of objects with hands, feet and another object
- Applies rhythm to physical skill or dance
- Maintains aerobic activities for a minimum of 10 minutes

Physical Education (cont.)

Cognitive Skills

- Knows the fitness components and how to improve them
- Knows the difference between muscle endurance and muscle strength and how to improve each component
- Rates activities for their contribution to the fitness components
- Understands and calculates Target Heart Rate
- Distinguishes between aerobic and anaerobic activities
- Understands the fitness relationship to frequency, intensity and time
- Understands the importance of a warm up and cool down
- Identifies the negative effects of smoking, drinking, drugs and poor diet
- Keeps an activity log
- Identifies positive changes as a result of exercise
- Identifies several components of a healthy lifestyle

Attitudes

- Demonstrates good sportsmanship
- Appreciates differing abilities
- Respects others
- Works cooperatively in groups
- Works independently
- Practices safety
- Demonstrates leadership
- Demonstrates followership
- Understands that achievements include more than winning

Parental Support

TIPS

- Read with your child every day for a minimum of 15 minutes and talk about what was read.
- Ask your child each day what s/he accomplished or discovered in school rather than what s/he did.
- Practice basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts.
- Use math in daily situations (measuring, estimating, metric system and mental math).
- Have your child write in some form each day (letters, notes, lists...).
- Plan and enjoy family trips together (zoos, local historical sites, art galleries, museums, planetariums, plays, concerts, sports events and movies).
- Encourage your child to observe and talk about science and nature around him/her (observe and identify plant and animal life in your neighborhood).
- Watch and discuss educational TV programs. Monitor and set limits for TV/video game use.
- Plan and enjoy physical activities together (hike, skate, walk, play ball).
- Model and expect respectful, responsible, honest and caring behavior (please, thank you).

Parental Support (cont.)

- Enjoy the arts with your child (music, art, dance, etc.).
- Encourage a healthy life-style (eat a balanced diet, get plenty of sleep, exercise).
- Establish a homework routine with your child that encourages planning, independence and responsibility.
- Review and monitor your child's daily homework.
- Use car travel time to talk with your child about such things as: current events, social activities and decisions he/she is making.
- Maintain continuous and open communication between you and your child's teacher.
- Model good table manners: cleaning your place, setting the table, preparing simple foods, and kitchen safety.
- Each day tell your child that he/she is valued and why.
- Give each of your children a hug and a kiss and tell them you love them every day.



**District Mission: To Empower All Students To Excel
As Citizens In A Changing World**

Revised August 2007