

This guide provides an overview of what your child will be learning in **fourth grade**. It is based on the Common Core Standards, the Massachusetts Frameworks, and the curricular approaches which have been adopted by the Somerville Public Schools. Read the [Massachusetts Frameworks](#) for more details.

Academic standards are important. They ensure that all students, no matter where they start, are prepared for success in the next grade level, college, and their careers. By defining standards clearly, we aim to help families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. There are some students who will need additional support to meet a standard. Other students will need more complex work to go deeper with the standards. Teachers craft their day-to-day classroom instruction based on the standards, individual student needs, and the unique characters of their schools and community.

How can I support my child's learning at home?

- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school
- Contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns and attend Parent Teacher Conferences
- Check your child's folder and/or agenda book every night
- Provide a space and a consistent time for your child to complete their homework

English Language Arts

The fourth grade ELA Curriculum is Wit and Wisdom. Wit and Wisdom is a knowledge building curriculum that integrates reading and writing. This program is grounded in science of reading and meets the state requirements for high quality instructional materials. The fourth grade modules are as follows:

Module 1: A Great Heart

What does it mean to have a great heart, literally and figuratively?

Core texts: The Circulatory Story, Love that Dog

Module 2: Extreme Settings

How does a challenging setting or physical environment change a person?

Core texts: Mountains, Hatchet

Module 3: The Redcoats Are Coming!

Why is it important to understand all sides of a story?

Core texts: Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak, George vs. George, Woods Runner

How can I support my child's literacy learning at home?

- Encourage your child to read daily and discuss the texts he/she is reading
- When your child shares an opinion or thought about a book, ask them why? and have them use evidence from the book
- Encourage your child to write by keeping a diary, or sending a thank you note or a letter to a family member or friend

READING

Mathematics

Illustrative Mathematics (IM) curriculum districtwide in Grades K-8. You can find more information for families in this document.

During the year, students in the fourth grade will be working on:

- Rounding whole numbers to any place
- Adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers fluently.
- Developing multiple strategies to fluently multiply and divide multi-digit numbers.
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that $\frac{1}{4}$ is less than $\frac{3}{8}$ because $\frac{2}{8}$ is less than $\frac{3}{8}$)
- Solving word problems that involve the addition and subtraction of fractions
- Multiplying a fraction by a whole number (e.g., $\frac{1}{2} \times 5$)
- Understanding how fractions and decimals are related (e.g., $.38 = \frac{38}{100}$)
- Solving real world problems that involve area and perimeter
- Solving multi-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division that involve time, distance, money, weights, and volume
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram
- Recognizing lines of symmetry, perpendicular lines, parallel lines

How can I support my child's math learning at home?

- Look for "word problems" in real life. Some fourth grade examples might include asking your child to compare numbers using phrases like "times as much." For example, if the family cat weighs 8 pounds and the family dog weighs 56 pounds, how many times as much does the dog weigh? And asking you child to help you compare fractional amounts. For example, if one recipe calls for $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil?
- Practice reading prices with dollars and cents (e.g. \$5.99 "five dollars and 99 cents"). Estimate about how much that is in dollars (e.g. about six dollars)
- Practice reading and writing multi-digit numbers up to 1,000,000.

Social Studies

During the year, students in the fourth grade will be learning:

- Identify and use latitude and longitude
- Use maps including scales of miles and legends
- Identify the countries of North America
- Identify and describe the regions of the United States including climate, physical features, and natural resources
- Identify states, capitals, and major cities
- Identify and describe the physical and political features of Canada and Mexico

Science, Technology, and Engineering

During the year, students in the fourth grade will be learning:

- That the speed of an object is related to the energy of the object
- That energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents
- How energy changes when objects collide
- How a device can convert kinetic energy to electrical energy or uses stored energy to cause motion or produce light or sound
- That waves are regular patterns of motion along which energy travels and can cause objects to move
- That there are multiple ways to transfer information through encoding, sending, receiving, and decoding a pattern
- How rocks, soils, and sediments are broken into smaller pieces through mechanical weathering and moved around through erosion
- To analyze maps of Earth's mountain ranges, deep ocean trenches, volcanoes, and earthquake epicenters to describe patterns of these features
- That energy and fuels humans use are derived from natural resources
- That some energy and fuel sources are renewable and some are not

Social/Emotional

The elementary years are an important time to nurture social-emotional competence and develop foundational learning skills. Somerville Public Schools uses the Second Step curriculum, an evidence-based program that includes everything schools need to integrate social-emotional learning into their classrooms and school-wide. The curriculum is designed to promote school success, self-regulation, and a sense of safety and support. Classroom teachers are responsible for implementing Second Step. Schools guidance counselors and other support personnel assist teachers and students to work toward attaining curriculum goals. Staff at your child's school can give you more detailed information about the sequence of skills taught and how social/emotional skills are taught.

Fourth Grade Lessons:

UNIT 1: Growth Mindset and Goal Setting

1. Setting a Good Goal
2. Making a Plan
3. Checking Our Progress
4. Reflecting on Our Journey
5. Ready, Set, Goal!

UNIT 2: Emotional Management

6. The Balanced Brain
7. What is Rethinking?
8. How to Rethink
9. Take Another Look
10. Rethink It!

UNIT 3: Empathy and Kindness

11. The Same, But Different
12. Ask, Listen, Learn
13. Seeing It Differently
14. Changing Your Mind
15. A New Point of View

UNIT 4: Problem Solving

16. A Good Problem-Solver
17. Saying it Respectfully
18. Exploring Outcomes
19. A Good Solution
20. STEP Into Problem Solving

Specialists

Somerville Public Schools provides each student with 40 minutes per week of instruction in General Music, Library/Media, Art, and Physical Education. The specialists at each school are available to give you more detailed information about specific skills addressed.