



# A Parent's Guide To the Los Altos School District **GRADE 4** Course of Study

August 2010

Fourth grade instructional programs in Los Altos schools are committed to helping each child meet the academic and intellectual competencies expected at this grade level and become active, engaged learners in a classroom setting. The following summary of the instructional program provides an overview of the fourth grade year. The fourth grade program builds on skills and knowledge children have learned in preceding years. It encourages critical thinking, creativity, and respect for self and others. Expectations are modified or expanded to meet a child's needs and abilities.

Curriculum standards are what all grade-level students are expected to know and be able to do by the end of a school year. Key concepts and standards of fourth grade education are included. If you would like a complete description of fourth grade standards, they can be downloaded from the [California Department of Education](#) website.

If you have questions about curriculum, please contact your child's teacher.



## **MATHEMATICS**-----

Adopted Programs

Scott Foresman envision

### ***Number Sense***

Orders & compares whole numbers and decimals to two decimal places  
Rounds whole numbers through the millions to the nearest multiple of ten  
Explains different interpretations of fractions  
Represents a fraction using drawings and numbers  
Identifies mixed numbers and fractions on a number line  
Estimates & computes the sum or difference of whole numbers  
Uses standard algorithms for the addition & subtraction of multidigit numbers  
Multiplies three digit numbers by two digit numbers  
Divides multi-digit numbers by one digit divisors  
Understands that many whole numbers break down in different ways

### ***Algebra and Functions***

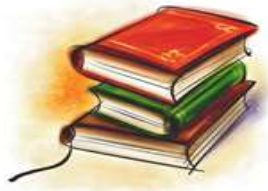
Uses letters, boxes or other symbols to stand for any number  
In simple expressions  
Uses parentheses to evaluate mathematical expressions  
Uses and interprets formulas to answer questions about quantities & their relationships  
Knows how to manipulate simple equations

### ***Measurement & Geometry***

Uses formulas to find the area of polygons  
Uses formulas to find the perimeter of polygons  
Graphs coordinate points, lines, and simple figures  
Identifies lines that are parallel & perpendicular  
Identifies the radius & diameter of a circle  
Visualizes, describes & makes models of geometric shapes  
Knows the definitions of different triangles & different quadrilaterals

### ***Statistics, Data and Probability***

Formulates survey questions, collects & represents data on graphs, tables & chart



## **READING/ LANGUAGE ARTS-----**

Adopted Programs            Houghton Mifflin Medallions Edition, Reading

### ***Reading***

Word Recognition:        Reads grade level text aloud fluently  
Vocabulary:                Applies knowledge of root words and forms  
Comprehension:         Uses appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes  
                                      Makes and confirms predictions  
                                      Distinguishes between cause/effect  
                                      Distinguishes between fact/opinion  
Analysis:                    Understands the differences between literacy genres  
                                      Analyzes basic elements of fiction and non-fiction

### ***Writing***

Organization:             Develops a central idea in sentences and paragraphs  
                                      Creates multiple paragraph compositions  
Research:                    Uses information in reports appropriately and cites sources  
Revision:                    Edits and revises to improve drafts  
Applications:              Effectively writes personal narratives & summaries  
                                      Spells grade level appropriate words in writing  
Penmanship:                Writes fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic  
Sentence Structure:        Uses simple and compound sentences  
Grammar:                    Identifies and uses regular and irregular parts of speech  
Punctuation:              Uses commas and apostrophes correctly  
Capitalization:             Capitalizes proper nouns and the first word in quotation  
Spelling:                    Spells roots, suffixes, prefixes, and syllable constructions

### ***Listening and Speaking***

Comprehension:         Listen attentively and responds appropriately  
                                      Gives precise directions and instructions  
Delivery:                    Communicates ideas and emphasizes points effectively  
Applications:              Makes narrative and informational presentations

**SCIENCE-----**

**Adopted Programs**

FOSS, [Magnetism & Electricity](#) (Physical), [Environments](#) (Life), [Earth](#) [Materials](#) (Earth)

**Scientific Process Skills**

Predicts the outcomes of simple investigations  
Collects and analyzes data to develop a logical conclusion

**Life, Physical or Earth Sciences**

Energy & Matter: Understands the forms and sources of energy  
Knows the forms and make-up of matter  
Understands general concepts of light

Adaptations: Knows the role of adaptations in an organism's life  
Knows that living things cause changes in the environment

Astronomy: Knows the lunar cycle  
Knows objects in the sky move in predictable patterns

**SOCIAL STUDIES-----**

Adopted Programs [Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, Our Golden State](#)

Geography: Uses basic map reading skills correctly  
Identifies the continents and ocean of the world  
Identifies and understands the characteristics of California's regions

History: Understands the Native Americans of California and their impact  
Understands the exploration of California  
Understands the Mission Period & Rancho Period of California  
Understands the Gold Rush era and its impact

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION-----**

All children participate in daily physical education aimed at developing sportsmanship, coordination, agility, strength, stamina, enjoyment of physical activity and participation in team and individual sports. All upper grade children have the opportunity to take part in the Los Altos Junior Olympics each spring. A P.E. specialist works with the children twice every week.

**FINE and PERFORMING ARTS-----**

All upper grade students receive instruction in the arts on a weekly basis. Fourth grade students participate in a year-long music offering which includes vocal music and recorder. Students also participate in three fine arts offerings during the course of the year, each lasting one trimester. Students will take each of the following courses: visual arts, drama and digital design. In addition to the weekly Fine Arts Block, the District provides trained volunteers through an Art Docent program.