

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](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/cur/) 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 & charts

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.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

For children who qualify, the District offers programs for English Language Learners, Gifted and Talented, Speech and Language Development, Special Education, Psychological Testing and Counseling, and Home Teaching.