

**4th GRADE**  
**CURRICULUM GUIDE**



**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF**  
**MENOMONEE FALLS**  
2013-2014

**PURPOSE of the Curriculum Guide:**

The School District of Menomonee Falls is committed to developing a partnership between school and family. This curriculum guide has been developed to provide valuable information for parents related to end of year goals and resources for fourth grade students to ensure academic growth for all.

**Reading/Language Arts:**

By the end of the year, students in fourth grade will be able to...

Read and comprehend literature at a fourth grade level. (Level R-T)  
Use details to describe a character, setting, or event in depth.  
Draw inferences by referring to details and examples stated in a literary text.  
Write a clear topic sentence that states my opinion.  
Provide meaningful reasons (minimum of 3) that support my opinion.  
Support my reasons with relevant facts and details.  
Organize my ideas to support my main topic or opinion.  
Use linking words to connect my ideas.  
Restate my main idea in a concluding sentence.  
Write complete sentences using appropriate punctuation.  
Use correct capitalization.  
Spell 4th grade words correctly, using references if needed.  
Have on topic discussions, sharing my own ideas and building on the ideas of others.

To help students be independent readers and writers, the district uses a “workshop” model for instruction. This instructional model uses a combination of focused mini-lessons, read alouds, independent reading, writing & conferring, guided reading and writing, and reflection to build strategies for reading, writing, and comprehension and to foster a love of reading and writing.

**Math:**

By the end of the year, students in fourth grade will be able to...

Name two dimensional figures.

Classify and identify two-dimensional figures based on their properties including parallel and perpendicular sides and angle measures.

Use the formula for finding area of a rectangle to solve problems.

Use the formula for finding the perimeter of a rectangle to solve problems

Find an unknown factor by using the formulas for area and/or perimeter of a rectangle .

Convert from one unit of measure to another using km, m, cm, mm; kg, g; lb, oz; l, ml, hr, sec; in, ft, yd while solving problems.

Use the 4 operations to solve word problems of various types.

The District uses *Everyday Mathematics* developed by the Center for Elementary Mathematics and Science Education from the University of Chicago. *Everyday Mathematics* provides a curriculum that is rigorous and balanced and that emphasizes conceptual understanding while building a mastery of basic skills. It also explores a broad mathematics spectrum, not just basic arithmetic. *Everyday Mathematics* builds understanding over a period of time from informal exposure to more formal and direct instruction. The curriculum also helps students make connections and build upon their existing knowledge base.

### **Science:**

By the end of the year, students in fourth grade will be able to...

Communicate about my investigations.  
Can plan and conduct an investigation.

The science curriculum is guided by the Full Option Science System (FOSS) program developed at the University of California, Berkeley. Students engage in inquiry based scientific and engineering practices to help answer the essential questions, “What’s in this world?” and “How does it work?” Students engage in multi-sensory, hands on learning activities, simulations, models and reading. Through these developmental activities, students construct understanding of science concepts. Putting ideas and experiences into words, helps students develop an in-depth understanding of science.

### **Social Studies:**

By the end of the year, students in fourth grade will be able to...

Show my understanding of social studies knowledge and concepts.  
Show my understanding of important vocabulary.

In Social Studies, the fourth grade students understand key concepts in state, national and world geography. Readings and activities focus on understanding maps, the importance of natural resources for the development of communities, and the impact of Wisconsin’s geography on its history. Students learn more complex map skills and how to use maps as resources for information. Students also explore social studies through non-fiction literature including the use of *Time for Kids (TfK)*, a weekly classroom news magazine.

**Resources for Families:**

To extend learning at home, families can utilize the following sites:

**District Electronic Libraries**

<https://sdmf.follettdestiny.com>

Provides links to learning games, non-fiction books, research tools, news sources, encyclopedias, and more.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Suggestions**

Level R Spiderwick Chronicles

Andrew Clements Books (Frindle)

Level S Percy Jackson Series

Alex Rider Series

Level T Diary of Wimpy Kid

Chronicles of Narnia

For students who are below or above these levels in reading, the district provides a continuum of services to challenge students accordingly. For further information on these services, please contact the teacher or building principal.

### **Reading, Writing, & Math Resources**

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>

<http://www.timeforkids.com>

<http://www.funbrain.com>

<http://pbskids.org>

<http://aplusmath.com/>

### **Compass Learning**

<http://compass.sdmf.k12.wi.us/clologin.aspx>

Compass Learning is an online academic learning tool that provides reading and math activities matching individual student scores on their most recent Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment. Each student has a unique login and password. At the beginning of the school year parents will receive information regarding Compass Learning.

### **College Planning**

<http://collegetools.berkeley.edu/resources>

<http://www.finaid.org/parents/>

### **Saving for College (529 Accounts)**

<https://www.edvest.com/>

As the cost of college rises, families find it important to start early with college savings programs, or 529 accounts. The state of Wisconsin works with Edvest to encourage and support this savings. The money in these accounts can be used for higher education costs including technical and four-year colleges.

### **State of Wisconsin Assessment System**

[http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea\\_parents](http://oea.dpi.wi.gov/oea_parents)

Beginning in third grade, the state of Wisconsin requires schools to test students' understanding of skills, knowledge, and concepts in math, reading, language arts, science, and social studies.



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
MENOMONEE FALLS