

MATH

Fourth graders at OTES continue to refine their math skills using Everyday Math.

Everyday Math offers students a broad background in mathematics. It is a spiraling curriculum that re-teaches procedures and algorithms in a three-year cycle until they become secure. Some approaches may be different than you saw as a student, but they are research-based and proven to be highly effective!

You can expect a systematic approach to Everyday Math. A family letter is sent home at the beginning of every unit of study. The family letter is a very valuable resource. It highlights important vocabulary, activities to do as a family and answers to the Study Links. The Study Links reinforce skills taught in the classroom that day.

Each day your child will take part in a direct instruction lesson called "Mathboxes." Units are assessed for secure goal mastery and daily assessments are made on developing goals as we prepare our fourth graders for the fifth grade! Lots of hands on practice and learning through games is included in our curriculum!

We will study the following concepts:

- *Number Sense
- *Geometry
- *Interpreting and Using Data
- *Algorithms (problem solving) in Advanced Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions, Decimals and Percents, Measurement and Number Stories (aka...word problems!)

- *Math Fact practice at school and home!

**Work Hard and
Be Kind**

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM



Welcome to Fourth Grade! Old Town Elementary School's fourth graders have amassed some amazing skills in the areas of independence and we capitalize on that! Our rich curriculum lends itself nicely to projects that really stretch your child's abilities. Students will be expected to do long-term projects with multiple steps. They'll be required to take initiative and responsibility for their learning much more often! Homework is an important part of our day as it provides practice of daily skills and helps prepare children for the next day. Curriculum is organized by themes into which students fully immerse themselves. You will be amazed at the growth in your child by the end of the year; they really come to know who they are and who they want to be. Fourth graders are very cool people and watching and helping them grow is our true pleasure!

7/15/09

Science

Fourth Grade Literacy Program

Your fourth grader worked very hard on becoming a more independent learner in third grade. We capitalize on these new skills in our literacy program. We offer a wide variety of procedures to fit each learner's needs in a customized way. Our Literacy structures are based upon Reader's and Writer's Workshops in which new concepts are taught in small or large groups and students have ample opportunity to practice these skills in their own reading and writing making the tasks more relevant and meaningful to them. We emphasize reading lessons about procedures and organization, comprehension, and reading and language strategies and skills. Within our workshops your students will practice advancing spelling skills using the Zaner Bloser Spelling Program as well as Word Study methods that really get students to explore parts and patterns of words. Skills we look at are phonics (matching sound with letters), syllables and endings, bases and roots. Cursive is emphasized as well as keyboarding. Vocabulary is studied in contexts throughout our entire day, including Social Studies and Science. Writers use the models of 6 + 1 Traits of Writing to improve their writing skills in the areas of sentence fluency, ideas, organization, voice, conventions, word choice and presentation. Finally, readers are offered a wide variety of formats from Guided Reading to Literature Circles to practice reading curriculum at their own appropriate reading level or lexile.

The goal of the fourth grade science program is to introduce concepts through a guided, hands-on approach. During the year, students will conduct experiments, record predictions and observations, and write about their learning and thinking in their science notebooks. The textbook is used as a supplement to our curriculum, not the center of it. Students will also learn with a variety of rich non-fiction sources.

*For Life Science, the students use a Delta Kit to learn about plant and animal life cycles. We talk about how living things are sorted and how changes in the habitat of organisms can influence its survival. The students also learn about how organisms depend on each other for survival.

*The students learn about the Physics of Sound during our physical sciences part of the curriculum. Kids will be introduced to such topics as how sound travels, sound discrimination, pitch, tension and much more.

*Earth Science is covered through a Delta Kit about our solar system. Students investigate the other planets in our solar system while discussing concepts such as rotation, revolution, orbits, days and years.

*The students talk about systems when we discuss the human body, specifically the circulatory and respiratory systems. They learn about how each of these systems work and how each part of a system influence the whole structure.

*The kids also do a lot of work with the Gulf of Maine. They find out about a lot of the organisms that can be found there and discuss how these organisms interact with each other.

Social Studies

The main focus for students in fourth grade is studying about the State of Maine. They will learn about Maine culture, people, history, government, events and economics**. We celebrate our thematic study of Maine with a trip to the State House in Augusta. As with science, we rely heavily on rich non-fiction books to support our social studies curriculum. Vocabulary studies are woven into both literacy and social studies. The students also work on mapping skills through learning the United States borders, bodies of water and major mountain ranges.

**Junior Achievement Program—This program shows elementary school students the relevance of education to the workplace through a sequential business and economics curriculum. Its sequential approach helps the students understand their economic world and prepares them for academic learning and lifelong achievement. With a variety of hands-on activities, the students will better understand the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in our economy.

Compass Learning

We use Compass Learning to enhance our math, literacy and theme work as well. It is a computer based program that customizes lessons to support your child's individual needs. It can be accessed at home as well!