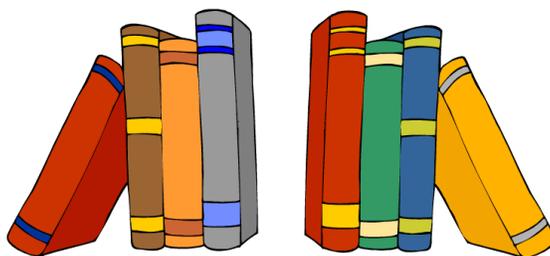


Torrington Public Schools
Curriculum
4th Grade

Our mission is to ensure that each student will reach their highest levels of academic achievement within a safe and welcoming environment, where they are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st Century world. Instruction is relevant and rigorous, meeting students' academic, social, and emotional needs. Administrators and teaching staff inspire students to rise to this high standard of excellence. Administrators and teachers monitor student progress and achievement through consistent data analysis, providing the basis for future goals and programs.

Site administrators are role models and coaches who work with their staff in order to improve instruction and motivate others. All routine meetings, administrative or site based, are a reflection of best practices. These meetings are well planned interactions and opportunities for learning. The insights that result from these gatherings allows staff to be better informed as they interact with students, parents, and community members. They also build the capacity of all staff, leading to enhanced learning networks, and collaborative problem solving.

During the early release day once a month, staff members participate in Professional Learning Communities which allows them to enhance their practice. These learning experiences occur the third Thursday of each month. In addition, administrators participate in monthly meetings where they are involved in trainings on pertinent issues and skill enhancement.



LITERACY:

The Torrington English/Language Arts curriculum supports the development of proficient, engaged readers and writers. It integrates the Connecticut Core Standards (CCS) in English/Language Arts into a balanced literacy approach that includes reading workshop, writing workshop, and word study. In reading the curriculum focuses on fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

By the end of Grade 4, students will be able to:

- Describe the basic elements of stories — such as characters, events, and settings — by drawing on specific details in the text
- Pay close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points
- Compare ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Write summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Independently conduct short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Paraphrase and respond to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Report orally on a topic or tell a story with enough facts and details
- Write complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling
- Relate words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)



MATH:

In Grade 4, instructional time focuses on three critical areas: (1) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; (2) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; (3) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry. (www.corestandards.org)

Instructional experiences focus on engaging students in problem solving, exploring, analyzing, discussing, and applying mathematical concepts and strategies in order to develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

By the end of Grade 4, students will be able to:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns.
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles
- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.



SCIENCE:

All Next Generation Science Standards address the following components: Physical, Life, Earth, Space and Engineering. These standards were created to better prepare students for the careers and life in the 21st Century world. Fourth grade students will explore these different thematic units: Changing Earth: Life cycles-erosion; Energy transfer-electric currents, light and sound; Sound and sound waves and their impact on the Earth. All of the instructional experiences are student centered, focusing on asking questions, using observations and models, analyzing data and carrying out investigations.



SOCIAL STUDIES:

The Connecticut Social Studies Frameworks are focused on four essential components: Civics, Economics, Geography, and History. The goal is to ensure our students are prepared to become active citizens, who are well informed and can make thoughtful decisions regarding their lives and their role in the community and the nation. Social studies instruction is inquiry based, involving integration of the arts and humanities. Social studies is composed of deep and enduring understandings, concepts, and skills from the disciplines. In fourth grade, students learn about the Earliest Settlements in North America, Colonial United States History, Explorers; Use of maps, globes; the rights and responsibilities of groups; perspectives on the past; local history, and economic decision-making that shaped history.

LIBRARY:

We are fortunate to have library media specialists who teach lessons in library and technology skills to students on a weekly basis. This instructional provides foundational skills for students. The library media specialists also foster a love of learning and of books! In fourth grade, students learn about genre study; text analysis; notetaking, highlighting and paraphrasing; and have exposure to Nutmeg books and the voting process.

TECHNOLOGY:

Fourth grade students learn to use of Google Classroom, joining, submitting, and posting comments;

Digital Safety: Digital Citizenship and appropriate posting; Cyberbullying;

Coding: Use critical thinking skills to solve problems using block coding;

Research and Gathering Information: Use different resources (print and digital); Create questions, solve a problem, or explore an issue. Create multi-media presentations to present findings using a variety of digital tools.

Research and Gathering Information: Identify and use different types of resources (print and digital): atlases, encyclopedia, non-fiction books, websites, databases; Find, use, and analyze information critically. Create multi-media presentations.

ART, MUSIC, PE:

At Torrington Public Schools, Art, Music and PE are integral to a balanced educational program. Students receive 45 minutes of Art, 30 minutes of Music and PE each week. PE is scheduled twice a week in every grade except third. In third grade, students have 30 minutes of recorder once a week instead of PE twice a week. This experience allows them to prepare for playing a musical instrument in fourth and fifth grade. Playing a musical instrument has been linked to increased academic achievement. The Torrington Community has been recognized as one of the Nation's Best Communities for music for over a decade.