

Eagle Ridge Academy Fourth Grade

At Eagle Ridge Academy, we follow the Core Knowledge Framework and the Minnesota State Standards for Language Arts; History and Geography; Visual Arts; Music; Mathematics; and Science. Core Knowledge provides a solid foundation for learning by building upon student knowledge and skills from one year to the next and eliminating gaps in student learning.

Students will receive instruction in the following areas during Fourth Grade:

Language Arts: We follow a novel-based reading program using mainly core knowledge classics; Shurley English for writing and grammar; Wordly Wise Vocabulary; and spelling.

Benchmarks: In reading, students will work on reading comprehension and response; study poetry, fictional stories; myths and mythical characters and speeches; and literary terms and vocabulary. They will also learn sayings and phrases. In writing, students will produce a variety of writing (reports, summaries, poems, stories, descriptions, letters); conduct research; learn the parts of a formal composition; work on paragraph writing, editing, and revising skills; and work on spelling, grammar, and usage.

History and Geography: The topics studied will include geography with spatial sense (working with maps, globes, geographic tools); mountains and mountain ranges; Europe in the Middle Ages (background, geography, developments in history, feudalism, the Norman conquest, growth of towns, England in the Middle Ages); the spread of Islam and the “Holy Wars” (development of Islam, wars between Muslims and Christians); African kingdoms (early and medieval kingdoms, geography); China’s dynasties and conquerors; the American Revolution (the French and Indian War, causes, the Revolution); the making of a constitutional government (main ideas behind the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, levels and functions of the government); early American presidents and politics; reformers; and symbols and figures.

Mathematics: We follow the Saxon Math curriculum that allows for the development of foundational concepts and critical thinking skills, and concepts are developed, reviewed, and practiced over time. This curriculum is effective in reaching and challenging students at all levels. The scope and sequence of the curriculum provides instruction in Numbers and Operations; Measurement; Geometry; Patterns; Algebra and Functions; Statistics; Data Analysis and Probability; Problem Solving; Communication; Mathematical Reasoning; and Connections. **Benchmarks:** The topics will include numbers and number sense; fractions and decimals; money; computation (multiplication, division); solving problems and equations; measurement (linear measurement, weight, capacity, U.S. customary units, metric units, time); and geometry.

Science: In Science, teachers follow the FOSS science kits which create a hands-on, lab approach to developing science skills.

Benchmarks: The topics will include: Meteorology and water sustainability, body defense systems, circulatory and respiratory systems, matter, electricity and magnetism, rocks and minerals, engineered products and their impact on nature, science biographies, and metric measurement.

Visual Arts: The topics will include art of the Middle Ages in Europe; Islamic art and architecture; the art of Africa; the art of China; and the art of the early United States.

Music: The topics will include the elements of music through participation (rhythm, melody, harmony, form, timbre); music notation; listening and understanding (the orchestra, opera, vocal ranges, composers and their music, musical connections); playing the recorder; singing folk songs and dancing or moving responsively to music.

Latin: Students receive weekly instruction in Latin vocabulary, derivatives, grammar and culture.

Physical Education: Students in fourth grade receive instruction in physical education twice a week.