

4

fourth grade

Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to LEARNING in 4th Grade



LEARNING

The Cobb County School District is committed to providing your child an academic experience that will develop his or her knowledge and skills at every grade level and to ensuring a strong foundation is established for your child to reach his or her greatest potential. Our teaching is aligned with content standards and our teachers bring those standards to life for your child through various strategies designed to meet your child's learning strengths and needs.

In Cobb County classrooms, students are immersed every day in learning experiences based on exploration, problem-solving, and critical thinking in all content areas including the core areas of Reading and English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science; and in specialized content including Health, Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Technology. Excellence in teaching guides your child's educational experience from Kindergarten to graduation and into life. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Fourth grade students are immersed in reading, writing, listening, and speaking throughout their day. They engage in understanding literary and informational texts and using grade-level skills to become proficient and expressive readers and writers. Students compose informative, narrative, and opinion pieces. Students engage in shared reading and writing experiences, small-group guided reading, and independent reading and writing opportunities.

MATHEMATICS

Fourth grade students extend the concepts of multiplication and division from third grade, as well as begin the understanding of operations with fractions and the introduction of decimals. Students increase their knowledge in the geometry domain by investigating angles and basic geometry terms. Resources such as Cuisenaire rods, geoboards, and protractors are used to conceptually understand the mathematics that they are learning. Critical thinking, math reasoning and problem solving help students to apply and explain strategies that they learn to real-world math experiences.

SCIENCE

Science in 4th grade centers on a hands-on, student-centered exploration of our natural world. Earth, Life and Physical Science are studied throughout the year, allowing students to formulate an understanding of how the world works based on investigations and experiments. Students explore a variety of topics including forces, light, sound, and stars as well as our solar system and ecosystems. By organizing their thinking using scientific journals, graphs, and tables, students learn to interpret the world around them through procedures that rely on critical and high-level thinking.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students are becoming aware and engaged members of their school community. Social Studies prepares students to engage in society with a strong foundation of understanding regarding America's economy, history, and culture. By relating the nation's past to its present, 4th grade students are keenly aware of the influence of America's diversity on its culture and communities. As young decision-makers, they get first-hand experiences in learning the roles and responsibilities of citizens while using geography to connect all learning.

PARENT TIPS: Reading

Daily reading as a family is an enjoyable and important way to grow a love of learning. Create time to read during breakfast or in the evening before bed. Share your own favorite childhood books and talk about why the book is one you still love. Visit your local library and take advantage of school book fairs and literacy events. By sharing what you love about reading and showing them how much it means to you by reading with them, students will see how important literacy is in their lives.

SPECIALS

From Health and PE to Visual Arts and Music, 4th grade students broaden their love and understanding of healthy lifestyles, culture, arts and humanities. Playful learning is at the heart of each one of the 4th grade specials. In Art, using a range of media and subjects, students explore and critique art throughout our world and use their discoveries to inspire the creation of personal works. In Music, students build upon previous skills increasing their understanding of rhythmic and melodic notation by reading and writing music. They strive for independence while playing instruments and singing. In PE and Health, reducing injury and improving health is emphasized, as is lifetime fitness and skill development.



Cobb County School District Parent's Guide to ASSESSING in 4th Grade



ASSESSING

Your child will have a variety of classroom assessments that will aid his or her teacher in knowing how to provide the best possible instruction for your child. These assessments will also help you know how well your child is learning and what extra support may be needed. In addition, your child will participate in some standardized assessments that are used to gauge how well your child is doing in his or her grade level.

The state of Georgia requires that students in grades 3-5 participate in the annual administration of state assessments. The state assessment is called the Georgia Milestones Assessment System. Georgia Milestones measures how well students have learned the knowledge and skills in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students in grades 3 through 5 will take an End of Grade (EOG) assessment as part of the Georgia Milestones. In math and language arts, the EOG will include multiple choice and short answer questions. The language arts EOG has a third section, which focuses on writing.

All students in grades K-9 participate in the universal screening process for reading and math using a digital math inventory and a digital reading inventory. Your fourth grader's progress in reading and math will be measured three times a year using the reading inventory and math inventory online.

TESTING IN 4TH GRADE

MARK THE CALENDAR: 4th grade End of Grade (EOG) Assessment: April

QUESTION TYPES: Multiple-choice questions (called selected-response); Short answers (called constructed response); Extended response: The EOG has a writing section during which students write an extended response to a question derived from paired-passages students read.

PARENT TIPS: Assessment

Parents can support students in easing any concern or anxiety about assessment:

- Talk with your child about any tests or assessments.
- Explain that assessment is a natural and important part of any learning. Tests help students understand their thinking better and make improvements for better performance in the future.
- Remind your child to pay attention to the directions and to listen carefully as they are read. Encourage your child to take time to understand the questions before selecting an answer.
- A good night's rest is the best way to arrive focused on test day!

Remember that assessment is an important and helpful part of learning for students of all ages. Your support and involvement in your child's education is critical to success in school and in life. Research shows when parents play a key role in their child's learning, their child's achievement excels.