Kennard’s Fourth Grade Curriculum Framework

Kennard’s curriculum framework emphasizes a conceptually challenging, in-depth, and complex content within cognitive, affective, aesthetic, social, and leadership domains as recommended by National Association of Gifted Children (NAGC) 2010 Pre-K-Grade 12 Gifted Programming Standards. Differentiation, content-based acceleration, and enrichment are interventions implemented for our high ability learners. In addition to providing project based learning experiences, Kennard’s Character Education initiative is Tiger Families. * Indicates content accelerated by at least one grade level.

Fourth Grade Curriculum at a Glance

*Reading:
College of William & Mary Center for Gifted Education Jacob’s Ladder which targets reading comprehension skills in high ability learners and Literary Reflections a unit that involves students interacting with literature while enhancing reading comprehension and textual analysis skills.

- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry.
- Quote accurately from a text.
- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases including figurative language.
- Summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast characters, settings, or events.
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts independently and proficiently.
- Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
- Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic, noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent
- Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key detail

*Writing

- Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences
- Write opinion and persuasive pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Use Cornell note-taking skills.
Science: The Science Education for Public Understanding Program (SEPUP) unit is implemented for personal and societal issues to provide thematic continuity for student investigations and observations. The focus in science is Earth Science-Studying Soils Scientifically; Changes in the Earth’s Surface; Mixtures and Solutions; Physical Science such as Laws of Motion; Matter and Energy and Organism Structure and Function; Energy, and Earth Processes. All 4th grade students do a science fair project.

*Social Studies*: Topics are US and Missouri government; a broad outline of American History up to the Civil War emphasizing explorers, pilgrims, Native Americans, founding fathers, and the American Revolution.

Technology: All 3rd and 4th grade students have ipads available as learning, teaching, and product tools. Ipads are an important component of any research done by students. Students participate in keyboard training and Scratch, a coding program, and Lego WeDo robots during computer time.

*Mathematics*

- **Operations and Algebraic Thinking**: Write and interpret numerical expressions... Analyze patterns and relationships.
- **Numbers and Operations**: Understand the place value system... Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.
- **Numbers and Operations-Fractions**: Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions. Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.
- **Measurement and Data**: Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system. Represent and interpret data. Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.
- **Geometry**: Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real world and mathematical problems. Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.
- **Mathematical Practices**: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Reason abstractly and quantitatively. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. Model with mathematics. Use appropriate tools strategically. Be precise. Look for and make use of structure. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Enrichment activities for Fourth Graders:

- **Pumpkinpalooza**: Project Based Learning unit using real pumpkins, involving math, communication arts, technology, and science. Student teams measure circumferences, mass, volume, seed count to create data banks from which graphs are constructed. Students use the scientific method to make predictions, draw conclusions, write and present reports.
- **The Fieldtrip to Jefferson City** on Gifted Association of Missouri Day is another PBL that aligns strongly with the social studies curriculum. It includes writing, speaking, reading for information, and other skills.
- **Math Enrichment**: once per week, teaching the Equations game. An equation is an algebraic problem solving game that addresses math standards through middle school, including roots and exponentiation. Culminating activity is a grade level tournament in December and a field trip to regional contests in the spring for high achieving students.
- **Drama Enrichment**: classes teach elements of drama through games and activities. Students practice performance skills and engage in performances each year.
- **Newspaper**: The Tiger Times publishes 4 to 6 issues per year. Students report on events in and out of the school, and write articles using the writing process described above. Newspaper is an optional enrichment activity.
- **KCJA News Broadcasts**: Students research topics, write short reports, and rehearse once per week. There are several special longer broadcasts throughout the year. Radio is an optional enrichment activity.
- **Chess**: lessons in the classroom provided by The Chess Club & Scholastic Center.
These are just a few of our accomplishments from last year:

- Rise in state testing scores led Kennard to the rank of the #1 elementary school in Missouri.
- Multiple Ribbons at Queeny Park Science Fair.
- First place medals in regional *Equations* Competitions. Participation in the MCTM State Finals Contest.
- Gifted legislation passed and signed into law as a direct result of lobbying on GAM day in Jefferson City.

Fourth Grade Teachers: Tad Droste, Laura Macheca & Angela Rhodes

- SLPS Kennard CJA: [www.slps.org](http://www.slps.org)
- Kennard PTO: [www.kennardcja.com](http://www.kennardcja.com)