



HERITAGE OAK

Private Education

Fourth Grade Curriculum Synopsis

Welcome to Fourth Grade! Our focus is on very distinct interrelated skills including language, comprehension and critical thinking, mathematics, problem solving, and writing. Our students learn how to effectively gather information, apply it, and then use this data as the basis for new skills such as inference, analyzing, and thinking critically. By focusing on the critical skills of comprehension and math in these formative years, we guide students to become confident and accomplished communicators. Using various modalities, we provide challenging and creative experiences that allow students to work individually and in groups, as they apply their newfound knowledge.

In addition to a strong academic program, Heritage Oak is committed to developing the whole. This well-balanced environment is not only safe and inviting, but also supportive and encouraging. We are partners working together for the benefit of the children.

ENGLISH/ LANGUAGE ARTS

An integrated Pearson language arts curriculum providing core instruction in the following areas:

- Grammar usage and mechanics
- Parts of speech: Verbs and verb tense / Nouns / Adjectives / Adverbs / Pronouns / Contractions / Participles
- Capitalization and punctuation / Spelling, Vocabulary and Verbal Reasoning
- Synonyms and antonyms / Prepositions / Articles / Interjections
- Writing letters / Prefix, suffix, and root words
- Identify parts of a sentence
- Daily Grammar warm-up worksheets
- Weekly spelling words
- Vocabulary: Definitions/Synonyms/Antonyms/Classifying/Analogies/Completing the Sentence/Word Associations

READING COMPREHENSION

Students are provided with a structured literature program in a warm and inviting environment. This program supports young children in developing a love for literature using narrative and expository works, poetry, and prose from the Pearson series, as well as through in-class novel studies.

- Students are required to read for 20 minutes on a nightly basis
- Reading comprehension practice with students individually and in groups
- Students are taught about books, authors, and illustrators
- Reading includes Pearson basal reader Restart, Island of the Blue Dolphins, and By the Great Horn Spoon, and other nonfiction reading passages.
- Increase level of comprehension / enriched vocabulary / sequencing skills
- Comparison and abstractions

- Write summaries / paraphrasing / illustrating
- Moral lessons / enjoyment and pleasure reading
- Reading fluency and comprehension
- Summaries / sequencing skills
- Short stories / Current events / Novels

WRITING

The Write Source curriculum is an enriching process that allows students to become well rounded, organized writers. Using visual, multisensory, and practical strategies, our young authors will demonstrate their writing abilities through various genres. Students will compose clear coherent sentences, paragraphs, and essays that develop a central idea. Their writing will show they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing). The Six Traits of effective writing curriculum is also reviewed throughout the year to ensure students employ quality ideas and word choice, write with correct sentence fluency and conventions, and consider voice and organization in all assignments.

- One to five paragraph compositions
- Writing Styles: Narrative/Descriptive/Expository/Imaginative/Formal and Informal Letters/ Compare and Contrast/Persuasive/Fable
- California Missions Report

MATH

Envision Math and McGraw Hill offers a vertical alignment process that provides learners with an articulated, coherent sequence of content. It ensures that content standards and units of study are introduced, reinforced, and assessed and that instruction is targeted on individual students and CA Mathematics Standards at a grade level ahead.

- whole-number concepts and computation
- fractions / decimals / percent
- negative numbers
- properties of operations
- measurement / conversions / square roots /
- Probability / chance
- perimeter and area / polygons / angles
- geometric solids / volume / symmetry /
- real-world connections
- quantitative reasoning

SCIENCE

The Science Program is a hands-on, interdisciplinary curriculum using methods and tactics from NGSS, STEM, STEAM, the state teaching standards, and dynamic supplemental teaching methods to deliver these subjects in the elementary science lab:

- Plant and Animal Parts
- DNA Lab
- Sense Receptors
- Natural Processes
- Renewable/Nonrenewable Resources
- Plate Tectonics
- Changing Land

- Rock Patterns
- Energy Transfer/Electric Currents

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will explore and do an in-depth study of the environment, historical, social and economic structure of the state of California using Studies Weekly.

- California's environment and life in the twenty-first century
- Settling California / Geography and map skills
- California Gold Rush Report and Mission Report

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

French Fourth Grade (45 min twice a week)

Text: Brandon Brown *veut un chien* by Carol Gaab

Fourth Grade French introduces new vocabulary and grammar concepts through the reading of an easy novel. It reinforces good pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and develops the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to give students a hands-on approach to learning a foreign language and to appreciate its richness in history and culture. The objective is to make French learning fun and inspire the students to push their comfort levels and take initiative in their language learning.

Spanish Fourth Grade (45 min twice a week)

Curriculum: Mi Camino Spanish and the Novel- Brandon Brown Quiere Un Perro by Carol Gaab

Fourth Grade Spanish introduces new vocabulary and grammar concepts through the reading of an easy novel. It reinforces good pronunciation, fluency, vocabulary, and develops the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing to give students a hands-on approach to learning a foreign language and to appreciate its richness in history and culture. The objective is to make Spanish learning fun and inspire the students to push their comfort levels and take initiative in their language learning.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Students will focus on developing fundamental digital literacy skills and will be introduced to basic concepts of technology and computer science.

- Introduction to Technology
- Digital Literacy
- Multimedia Skills
- Coding and Computational Thinking
- Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship
- Introduction to Robotics and Engineering
- Data Literacy and Visualization
- Technology in Society

ART

Master Artists of Focus: Edgar Degas, Leonardo Da Vinci, Georgia O’Keeffe, Mary Cassatt, and Rosa Bonheur

- Realism
- Portraiture
- Folk Art
- In depth exploration of value
- Graphite drawing
- Expressing movement using various media
- Create a submission for annual HOPE Art Fair

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC:

Students in the 4th and 5th grade music program may choose to participate in either the Band or Orchestra program. Students in the band program may select an instrument that is categorized as woodwind, brass or percussion instrument, and students in the orchestra program continue with the violin and/or other instruments of the string family (viola, cello, bass).

Fourth Grade Instrumental Students will begin learning the basics of how to play their instrument, music theory concepts, and how to become a part of the ensemble with their instrument. They will have two major concert opportunities that are required for these groups - one in December for our Holiday Show and one in Spring for our Spring Concert.

SmartMusic provides students with guided at-home practice sessions with immediate feedback to individual recordings, along with teacher comments/feedback to submitted assignments.

Why SmartMusic?

Research had determined that technology in music education facilitates self-regulated learning by (Summers, 2018):

1. Demonstrating how to plan each practice session. Students can see how the teacher utilizes the computer program to map out their individual practice sessions at home. When asked to practice on their own, the assignments on SmartMusic serve as a guide for students to plan their own session.
2. Motivating students to practice. Students are motivated to do well by achieving higher scores on SmartMusic. As a result, they practice more effectively to complete assignments to receive full credit and better grades.
3. Evaluating immediately with instant feedback feature. Students can recognize immediately if their practice session is effective or not. The automatic-generated scores of the program inform students what they are doing right and wrong. They can practice their assignments several times and evaluate what needs to be done to accomplish the goal successfully.

Summers, E. (2018). *The Effects of Parental Involvement and computer-based music technology on developing independent musicianship* [Doctoral Dissertation].

<https://cui.dspacedirect.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/1dd1e502-d1d3-44fd-a5db-483e367bf21b/content>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS

- Development of fundamental, specialized motor skills.
- Monitor and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness
- Students participate in a variety of physical activities and learn how to maintain a personalized active lifestyle
- Students exhibit responsible and self-directed behavior that leads to positive social interactions in physical activity DSL (Developmental Sports League)
- Development of the individual