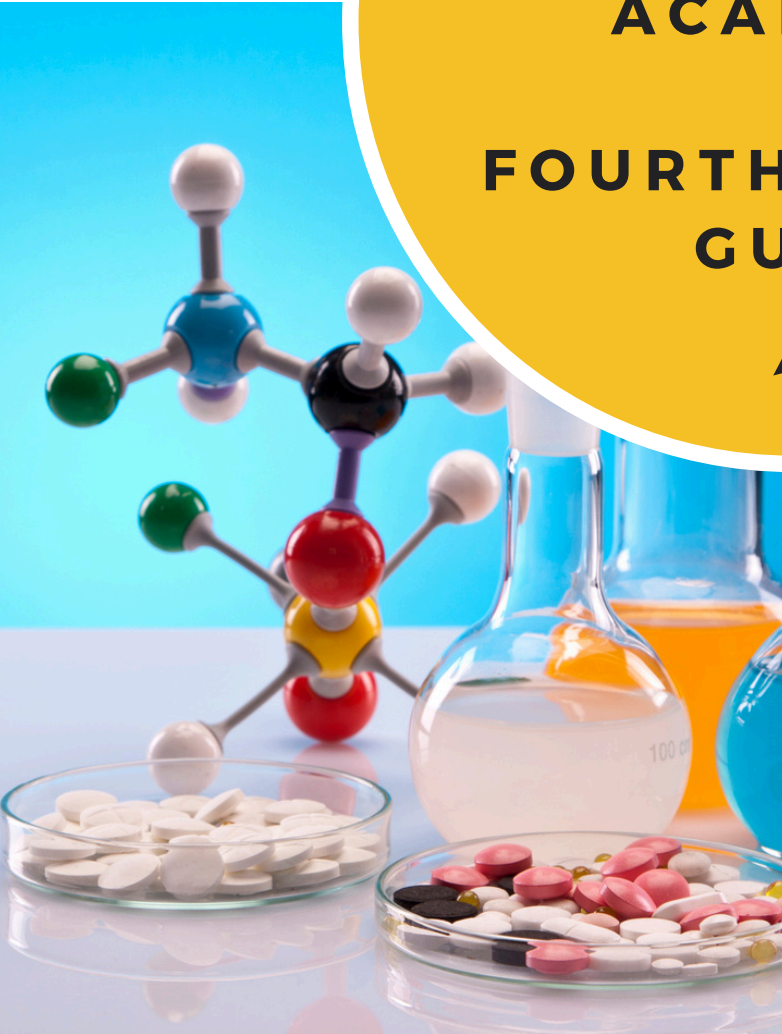




**ASANTE  
PREPARATORY  
ACADEMY**

**FOURTH GRADE  
GUIDE**



## OVERVIEW

Hello Fourth Grade Families-

This academic success guide has been created to give you an overview of the important concepts your child should be mastering by the end of the year during their time here at Asante Preparatory. It will also give you some ideas of things you can do at home to help support your child. In addition, the guide will give you an overview of the special area classes your child will participate in during their year.

At Asante, we track student progress by standard. We look for opportunities to deepen their learning in some areas and also accelerate them when appropriate. While it may seem a far time from now, our goal is all middle school students will leave Asante with at least one high school credit.

We know how important our partnership will be in helping your child be as successful as possible, so please don't ever hesitate to reach out with ideas or questions!

We hope this is the most amazing year for your child!

The Fourth Grade Team

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Building the stamina and skills to read challenging fiction, nonfiction, and other materials is fundamental in 4th grade. Your child will continue to learn about the world as well as build vocabulary skills by reading more complicated stories and poems from different cultures and a range of books on history, science, art, and music. Fourth grade students also will make important strides in their ability to explain in detail what a book says — both explicitly and what is implied from its details. By 4th grade, your child will be writing effective summaries and descriptions of characters or events that use correct grammar and punctuation.

## What Your Child Is Learning

- Describing the basic elements of stories — such as characters, events, and settings — by drawing on specific details in the text
- Paying 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
- Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Independently conducting short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling
- Relating words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)

# MATHEMATICS

In 4th grade, your child will gain important new skills while continuing to build on what he or she learned the previous year. One of the main areas studied in 4th grade is arithmetic and applying it to solve problems. This is an important life skill, and your child should make significant strides in this area during the year. Your child will also build knowledge and skills with fractions to prepare for mastering this topic in 5th and 6th grades. These skills will help ensure your child is ready for algebra and advanced math.

## What Your Child Is Learning

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- Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers (e.g., multiplying  $1,638 \times 7$  or  $24 \times 17$ , and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that  $1/4$  is less than  $3/8$  because  $2/8$  is less than  $3/8$ )
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in (such as  $2\ 3/4 - 1\ 1/4$  or  $3 \times 5/8$ ), and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as  $62/100$ )
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram

# SOCIAL STUDIES

Students will study the Americas (North, Central, and South America along with the Caribbean Islands) using an integrated approach considering the following factors:

- Theories about the first people in the Americas
- The development of Mesoamerican and South American civilizations including the Olmec, Inca, Maya, and Aztec
- Indigenous life in the Americas prior to European exploration including the peoples in the Southwest, Pacific Northwest, nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River (EasternWoodland)
- The causes and consequences of European exploration and colonization
- The environmental, political, and cultural consequences of the interactions among European, African, and American Indian peoples in the late 15th through 17th centuries
- Regional settlement patterns, significant developments, and life in the Southern, Middle, and New England colonies
- Roles and responsibilities as members of a society
- The contributions of various cultural and ethnic groups to the development of the Americas
- Examination of primary and secondary sources including written and oral histories, images, and artifacts
- Inclusion of historical fiction, picture books, graphic novels, in addition to informational text
- Disciplinary skills and processes including change and continuity over time, multiple perspectives, using and understanding sources, and cause and effect

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# SCIENCE

By the end of fourth grade, students expand on the idea that energy from the Sun interacts with Earth systems and explore other forms of energy we use in everyday life. Students apply their understanding of the various Earth systems (geosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, biosphere) and how they interact with each other and heat from the Sun. Students understand how geological systems change and shape the planet and provide resources. Students also develop an understanding of how Earth processes and human interactions positively and negatively change environments impacting the ability for organisms to survive. Student investigations focus on collecting and making sense of observational data and simple measurements using the science and engineering practices:

- ask questions and define problems,
- develop and use models
- plan and carry out investigations,
- analyze and interpret data
- use mathematics and computational thinking,
- construct explanations and design solutions
- engage in argument from evidence
- obtain, evaluate, and communicate information

## SPECIAL AREA CLASSES

At Asante Preparatory Academy, students in fourth grade have the opportunity to participate in special area classes in one week cycles. This is their final year before they start electives. These courses will help them explore interests in the arts, robotics and STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math), and health and fitness. During the four weeks, each child will attend classes in:

- Physical Education
- Art
- General Music
- iExplore

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## WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Literacy Ideas:
  - Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.
  - Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.
  - Keep books, magazines, and newspapers at home. Make sure your child sees you reading.
- Mathematics Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 4th grade examples might include:
  - Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like “times as much.” For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?
  - Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts — for example, if one recipe calls for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil? (In 5th grade, your child will learn ways to determine just how much more oil.)
  - Look for opporunties to apply skills they are learning to real situations like calculating the total bill in a restaurant, create a budget, or measure for a project.

**THANK YOU  
FOR SHARING  
YOUR CHILD  
WITH US!**



**ASANTE**  
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