



PARK MAITLAND SCHOOL

Excellence Begins in Wonder

4th Grade Year Curriculum Guide

2019 - 2020

Reading & ESW

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Our goal is to continuously strive to make each learner's academic experience the best it can be by creating meaningful and appealing lessons. We maintain a level of high expectations for our students and for ourselves. Communication between home and school is very important. If we work together, we will be sure to impart a love of lifelong learning to our children.

If there is anything that you feel we should know about your child in order to more fully understand him/her, please send in a note to school or e-mail. Please feel free to contact your teacher with any questions or concerns, now, or throughout the year. We feel strongly that we can be more effective if we work as a team to further your child's education.

Reading

Classroom Instruction at a Glance:

Your child will experience:

- Whole Group Instruction (Shared Reading)
- Small Group Instruction and Individual Conferences (Reading Workshops)
- Collaborative Pairing
- Teamwork
- Independent Daily Reading
- Lessons targeting many different learning styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic included

The students' reading textbook is the MyView Literacy series. MyView Literacy is a comprehensive English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum. It provides a balanced approach to teaching reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking through Reading and Writing Workshops. This print and digital curriculum includes authentic texts and mini-lessons, flexible resources, and meaningful differentiation. Our goal is to inspire every student to see the world with fresh eyes, to share their ideas, and shape their stories.

Depending on the complexity and length of the story, students will usually read a story from their textbook every week and a half to two weeks. Students will be assessed on comprehension and the targeted reading skill, as well as the story's vocabulary, using short-answer, multiple-choice, and essay questions. Making inferences is a skill that we will be focusing heavily on this year. Fourth graders will demonstrate proficiency in the skills and strategies of the reading process by applying them to the reading of literature. Some of these skills are drawing conclusions, predicting story events, identifying story elements, summarizing literature, and vocabulary skills. Students will read, analyze, evaluate, and respond to a variety of literary forms including short stories, novels, poetry, and readers' theater scripts.

Formal fluency assessments will be given periodically throughout the year. We will also be informally assessing students during class time, using running records, and conferencing during our reading workshop time. The purpose of fluency practice is to instill confidence through repetition and guided practice. The more your child practices reading aloud, the more fluent he/she will become. When appropriate, remind your child that following punctuation is essential. Fluency does not mean racing through the words as fast as you can without processing the meaning of the words. A student who strings sentences together without pausing at commas or stopping at periods often has trouble understanding what they are reading.

Outside Reading Requirement: It is a standing assignment that your child reads for at least 30 minutes nightly. Have your child practice reading orally (for fluency) and silently. You may enjoy taking turns reading alternating pages. You are a wonderful model of how to read with expression. Ask comprehension questions. This can be a fun opportunity for you and your child to read together and chat about what you are reading!

Every week, your child will write in their Reading Response Journal about their independent reading. This may be completed in class, or for homework, depending on when he or she wants to complete it. They will share their thinking about what they are reading - their responses to the text, predictions, connections, questions, reflections, inferences they are making about their reading, etc. We look forward to sharing their reading life this year through these journal entries. The journals are kept in the classroom, but may be brought home at any time.

Parent Portal: Occasionally there will be assignments that we may begin in class that will need to be finished at home. Written homework is not assigned very often in reading class, so when an assignment is given, it means that it is absolutely essential that the assignment be completed for the sake of students' success in the next day's class. Students are required to write their daily assignments in their planners. Assignments will also be posted in the classroom and on Week at a Glance.

If you have opened the parent portal, please take these thoughts into consideration. Anticipate that assignments might be graded but not actually updated on the portal for a week or so. Tests take longer to grade, while some assignments are much faster. If you have any questions about grading, please contact the teacher for feedback first.

Assignments and projects during the year will include...

- Reading Workshop: Once or twice a week, students will work in small groups, with a partner, or independently on reading skills and strategies. During this time, students will also sometimes participate in individual teacher/student conferences.
- Readers' Response Journals: Students must read at home for a minimum of thirty minutes per day. RRJ entries are due at the end of every week.
- Comprehension Tests: Comprehension tests are given every week and a half to two weeks.
- Formal Book Reports: Students will be learning the steps for writing a formal book report in class.
- Literature Circles: Mid-year, the children will begin working in literature circles, based on novels that they read as a group. They will then complete projects based on the novels. Details will be forthcoming.
- Mock Newbery Contest: Students will read books published this year (2019) and try to determine who should win the Newbery Medal. We will make an educated guess about which books are in the running. Winners are announced in January.

E.S.W.

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English

We will use the English textbook, *Voyages*, in class. Digital access to *Voyages* is also available to each student. Student login information is available through his/her teacher's website. Upcoming assessments will be posted a week in advance. *Voyages* and notes taken in the ESW spiral are excellent resources for review of the content covered in class.

Spelling

Spelling Connections Level 5 is our accelerated 4th grade spelling book. Students will begin the year with class spelling tests scheduled every week. As the school year progresses, students will move on to a differentiated spelling list tailored to meet their specific needs. Scheduled spelling tests will then be every other week. Please regularly check the week-at-a-glance for the scheduled spelling tests. Students who earn a grade below a "C" have the option to retest. One retest is available every quarter.

Vocabulary

To ensure an integrated and challenging ELA curriculum, vocabulary instruction will be taught using our MyView Literacy program and supplemented with online resources. Tests will be given periodically and will be posted on Week-at-a-Glance. While students are expected to memorize the definitions, the main objective is for them to decipher meaning through strategies learned in class.

Writing

We follow the five-step writing process. Quality of written work is emphasized, rather than quantity. Writing journals will be used to teach specific skills in writing. Students will be writing every day in class, whether it be through journaling, assignments, or projects. Neat and legible handwriting is always expected, but will only count as a small percentage of students' writing grade.

Math

Mrs. Kelly Dill • kdill@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 241

Dear Fourth Grade Families:

Welcome to 4th grade math! I am looking forward to teaching your children this year. Together we will have an eventful, academically challenging, and successful year! My mission is to motivate my students to be lifelong learners who have a strong sense of integrity and positive self-esteem. I hope to promote a love for math in all of my students and a desire to master the skills needed to be successful in math throughout their lives.

We are using the enVision math curriculum this year. I am looking forward to implementing this program with your child. We are already off to a great start.

Grading:

- Homework is 25%, CheckIns (quizzes) are 25%, and tests are 50% of your child's grade.
- Tests are usually announced at least a week before the test date.
- CheckIns are usually announced 2 days in advance.
- Retesting is allowed for all students that earn less than a "C" on a test. The new score will be an average of the retest and the original test grade.
- Students are expected to have their math supplies every day in class.

Policies and Procedures: Your child will have homework most evenings. The homework is usually a review of the lesson discussed in class. If your child needs help, encourage him or her to; study the examples in the textbook, look at the problems he or she did in class, or on the online textbook for extra tutorial videos and games. Please check your child's homework nightly to make sure all assigned problems have been completed. You may point out homework errors to your child, but let your child figure out what is wrong and how to fix the answer. Homework is checked for completion each day. My expectation is that good effort has been given to each and every homework assignment. Please check my homework page on Park Maitland's website for updates. Math homework is posted on a daily basis.

Absences: If your child is absent, please check the homework page for the assignment. They should access the online text and complete the assignment in their journal or on a piece of notebook paper.

Extra Help: If you feel that your student is in need of additional help, would like to review for a test, or is up for some challenging math, I am available for support. Students are welcome to Morning Math on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30-7:55.

This year promises to be an exciting time for your child, filled with learning, discovery, and growth. I value and share your commitment to your child's education. I look forward to working together to help your child achieve and succeed.

Science & Social Studies

Mrs. Ellie Higgs • ehiggs@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 226

Dear 4th Grade Families,

I am delighted to be your child's 4th grade science and social studies teacher. We have many exciting units of study and field trips to look forward to this year. My goal is to create a supportive and inspiring learning environment. I hope to encourage students to build upon their individual talents while broadening their understanding of how science and social studies affect their lives and their world.

Study Trips and events:

November 1st: *Florida Treasures* play by the Atlantic Coast Theater - on campus

December 13th: St. Augustine

March 11th: Science Expo - Orlando Science Center

March 27th: Kennedy Space Center

April 29th: State Travel Fair - on campus

May: Gem Mining Lab - on campus

Class Materials/ Texts: HSP Science Text Online Access, Harcourt States and Regions, Florida Studies Weekly News, Assorted iPad apps

Homework: Please check the daily planner and homework site for assignments and info. Details for each homework assignment will also be posted on my class website.

Inquiries and Tests: We will have 1 inquiry each nine weeks. Detailed information and expectations will be sent home for each in the form of an assessment rubric. Students will be notified of upcoming tests at least 7 school days prior to the test date. Students will use notes taken in class to create study packets for home. Students will also be provided with a study guide.

Behavior Expectations: We will follow the Park Maitland behavior plan. Students will be privately warned if they are not choosing to behave in class prior to a visit to the office.

Project Based Instruction and Inquiry Based Assessment: Inquiry-based activities will require students to conduct research, comprehend, and analyze information to make it meaningful in their lives both today and in the future. It is just as important to understand how to use and research concepts and skills as it is to learn them in the first place. This knowledge is the hook for retention and then eventual mastery. In addition, Discovery Days will serve as opportunities for students to personalize their learning experience.

Science Expo: The students will choose a project that is derived from concepts in the science textbook. All experiments/problems will be approved by Mrs. Higgs prior to beginning research. I will guide the students step by step in each of the levels of the Scientific Method. Updates and detailed assignments will be available in the Science Expo folder on my class website. Handouts will also be sent home, usually requiring a signature, to notify families when we begin each step.

Enrichments

Spanish

Mrs. Marilina Richardson • mrichardson@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 251

Course Overview: Welcome to español con Señora Richardson, where learning another language is not only fun, but meaningful. We will meet twice a week. In our class time together, we will focus on conversational Spanish and deep culture with the goal of building our students' confidence in using the language. In addition, my purpose each day is to create a classroom culture of compassion, love and celebration, leading students to fascination not only with the language, but also with diversity. I want to globalize students in a way that inspires them to embrace the world, leading others to do the same.

Coursework: Language is a muscle that must be exercised in order to retain the language and further develop the muscle. With that said, students will participate in collaborative activities in which they are able to exercise conversational skills at a novice level. With immersive segments throughout the school year, students will be able to master personal introductions, classroom vocabulary, and basic travel language. Many of the tasks will be completed at school, but some at home tasks may include creating videos or audio recordings and sharing the language at home with you. Due to the limited amount of time that we see each other, as a way to consistently practice the language, it would be great if students could spend at least 15 minutes a night practicing by using applications such as Duolingo.

Parent Experts: I know that we have many families native to many of the Spanish Speaking Countries around the world. Please feel free to contact me, and I would love to set up times in which you can join us in creating this fascination with learning Spanish in the classroom. From trying recipes to learning dances, I look forward to our students being immersed in the language and different cultures.

If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Design Thinking

Ms. Christina Martinez • cmartinez@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038

Ms. Marc (Substitute Teacher) • mmarc@parkmaitland.org

Let the designing begin! The iHub: Where creativity meets innovation! Students will be working with Ms. Marc for Design Thinking twice a week. In the iHub, students will be learning the 21st Century skills of creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking through discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. During the course of six weeks, students will use tools and methods to create a safe and strong digital presence. Students will be following The Digital Safety and Citizenship curriculum which will be fun and interactive and will enable our students to be good digital citizens!

Music

Mr. Stephen Nelson • snelson@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 263

Welcome to fourth grade music. At the beginning of the year we will be preparing for the annual grade level show. It's based on Florida history with musical flair. After that we will enjoy singing songs, dancing and other activities for the holidays. At the beginning of the new year, we will once again be

studying playing the recorder. We will work on mastery of notes and all of the theory that is required to make eager musicians of the fourth graders. It will be a big year to grow! Check with your children to see if they still have their recorder and book and are ready to go in January!

Physical Education

Mrs. Rachel Eichelberger • reichelberger@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 205

Mr. Mike Larrimore • mlarrimore@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 235

Ms. Samantha Miller • smiller@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 255

Ms. Darcy Rios • drios@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 208

Physical Education is an important part of the overall education process at Park Maitland School. The primary goal of physical education class is to enhance the development of psychomotor, cognitive, and affective skills that will enable our students to participate in and enjoy physical activities for the rest of their lives. Students will enjoy a variety of activities throughout the year. Some of their favorites include 4 square, tetherball, soccer, and kickball.

Art

Welcome to fourth grade Art class! Our mission in teaching art is to inspire your wonderful children, promote imagination, explore creativity and encourage them to have the confidence to express themselves through art!

We start our year off with our wonderful Young Masters Program. For those of you who may be new to Park Maitland, the Young Masters program gives your child the opportunity to have their artwork printed onto a variety of products (ex: t shirts, note cards, mouse pads, keychains, etc.). Children take great pride in turning their artwork into a printed keepsake. Parents, relatives and friends can treasure these creations for years to come!

Following the Young Master project, we will embrace our tradition of participating in the annual Winter Park Chamber of Commerce holiday card competition! Students will create their own representation of a "Winter holiday" card using bright and bold colors. Their artwork will be entered into the Chamber's annual competition and select artwork will be displayed (both on and off campus) for the holidays.

We are very excited to teach your children about artists from around the world and different types of art with our Artyology program! We study master artists (both past and contemporary) and look at things from a new perspective as we explore artwork from different cultures from around the world. This gives your children a glimpse of a global perspective in art and a chance to explore a wide variety of mediums and techniques, some of which they have never heard of before.

We continue to encourage students to have a "growth mindset" and to think "outside the box". We love for students to explore their curiosity, ask questions, and dive into a world of colorful creativity. We like to embrace new art adventures in class. It's going to be a very colorful year!

We choose to participate in many art shows throughout the year to portray our students artwork and show off their creativity and talent:

Cocina 214 (December)

Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival (March)

Maitland Public Library Art Show (April)

Park Maitland Art Show (May)

We look forward to a wonderful year with your precious child in art class and in 4th grade!

Drama

Ms. Brandy Eleazer • beleazer@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 262

Fourth grade is a very full and exciting one in drama! Of course, almost immediately we will be casting and rehearsing our fourth grade show, which explores Florida's vast history. Also, we will be intensively studying everyone's favorite, improvisational acting. This will include comedic games, imaginative story lines, and impromptu public speaking. Speaking of public speaking, a formal public speaking project will be part of the regular drama curriculum. Finally, we will delve into aspects of technical (or backstage) theatre and continue to develop our knowledge of theatre terms.

Writing Lab

Mrs. Jenny Lin • jlin@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 203

Writing Lab is an enrichment class that allows our students more time to dream and formulate creative compositions. In Writing Lab, students review and utilize the Writing Process, continue work on self-editing and are introduced to peer editing. Opportunities for creative writing include: interviews, poetry, script writing, narratives, letters, etc. A highlight of Writing Lab is composing and performing, with drama integration, a public speaking piece. Additionally, the students are involved in collaborative projects with other disciplines, such as The State Contest Story, which links their state knowledge from ESW, reading, and social studies to a fiction story they create. The students will learn, write and share in Writing Lab twice a week.

Swimming

Mr. Kevin Meisel • kmeisel@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 231

Ms. April McAtee • amcatee@parkmaitland.org • 407-647-3038, ext. 239

The goals for swimming in Grade 4 is to develop a great attitude and increased awareness of safe practices around water, to challenge each child according to his or her individual abilities in both improved stroke technique and swimming endurance, and to create greater appreciation and enjoyment of aquatic sports and leisure water activities. The Individual Medley serves as the basis for all conditioning swims and stroke technique work during the semester. Aquatic safety is reinforced through the American Red Cross Community Water Safety manual. The Park Maitland School swimming program has developed leaders in the pool and at school since 1968.

Volunteering

This year, parents will have the opportunity to sign up for volunteer opportunities by visiting www.signupgenius.com/findasignup. The 4th grade sign-ups will not be "live" or available to you until after the 4th Grade Parent Night event.

Below are the step-by-step directions on how to access the sign up opportunities. Each grade level will have their own sign ups, and there are a few school wide opportunities as well.

For your grade level opportunities:

- Go to www.signupgenius.com/findasignup

- Go to Search for a Sign-up
- Enter the email address kwilliams@parkmaitland.org
- Fill in the letters and numbers in the security box
- Click on the event in which you would like to help, and add your name

For our school wide events:

- Go to [**www.signupgenius.com/findasignup**](http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup)
- Go to Search a Sign-up
- Enter email address: kwilliams@parkmaitland.org
- Fill in the letters and numbers in the security box
- Click on the event in which you would like to help, and add your name

On the site for each opportunity, you will find the directions you need. Some are unlimited and some are specific. Please keep in mind when volunteering that all parents within your child's class need the chance to participate. We ask that you are flexible and understanding and please "spread the wealth" allowing everyone to have a spot.

We hope you find this fast and convenient. Should you have any difficulties or have any questions, please contact Kitty Williams at kwilliams@parkmaitland.org by phone at [407-647-3038 x104](tel:407-647-3038).