



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE



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GRADE **4**



How to Use the Parent Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you the tools you need to support your child at home. In this booklet, you'll find strategies based on the DCPS curriculum to help your child meet his or her learning goals. You'll have a better understanding of what your child is learning in school and how you can further learning at home.

What You Can Do:

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support learning at home:

- ▶ Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in the 4th grade.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Provide a designated time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child's strengths with your child's teacher.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:




















- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level, what extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child:

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider asking:

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What books are you reading in school? Describe your favorite character? Why do you like that character?
- ▶ What do you think you should do more of at school? What do you think you should do less of? Why?

WHAT MY FOURTH GRADER IS LEARNING

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 	MATH 	SCIENCE 	SOCIAL STUDIES 
FALL 	<p>Students learn about Pre-Columbian America, exploration, and early settlements of the United States. They compare and synthesize information across multiple texts and draw comparisons about early American settlements and the people who lived there. While challenging the historic narrative by considering how historical accounts are written.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students read various accounts of writers' lives and view samples of their creative works. They learn how an author's heritage and life experiences shape who they are. They also learn how to synthesize information from multiple texts to illustrate how a person's community, life experiences, and heritage shape their identity and influence their writing style.</p> 	<p>Students will use place value to round, compare and solve addition and subtraction word problems.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students will solve multi-digit multiplication and division problems using various place value strategies.</p> 	<p>Students explore plant and animal parts and animal sense receptors.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students learn about how energy can be transferred and stored.</p> 	<p>What made North America so special? Students analyze the interaction between Native Americans and the environment, study their religious beliefs and the ways tribes lived prior to European Exploration.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Was life good in colonial America? Students explore the creation of the colonies and how the institutions evolved over time.</p> 
WINTER 	<p>Students learn why American colonists wanted independence from Great Britain. They read about the major events of the mid-1770s that caused conflict and led to war between the American colonies and Great Britain. Students learn how one's point of view impacts a reader's understanding and/or opinion of the American Revolutionary War.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students learn that rocks and minerals play an important role in the natural world and human society. During their study they will understand how rocks are formed and changed by the rock cycle and how can they be divided into three main categories - igneous, sedimentary metamorphic. Students learn how rocks contribute to earthquakes, volcanoes, erosion, and fossils, all of which impact people.</p> 	<p>Students will compare and order fractions. Students will solve problems involving addition, subtraction and multiplication with fractions.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students will understand and write fractions as decimals. Students will compare decimals by reasoning about their size.</p> 	<p>Students will explore how people communicate over large distances using light or sound waves.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Students will generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans.</p> 	<p>Did the Revolution unify or divide America? Students interpret the importance of the Declaration of Independence, and determine the economic, political, and social causes of the Revolutionary War.</p> 
SPRING 	<p>Students will learn about heroes in both ancient Greek mythology and present day. They will also explore the various elements and characteristics that make a person heroic. Students will also analyze ways authors use heroes to portray the central message of a text.</p> 	<p>Students will understand and identify and measure angles.</p> 	<p>How do we form a "More Perfect Union?" Students will analyze the flaws of the Declaration of Independence and Articles of Confederation, then research how the Constitution works and its implications for U.S. citizens today.</p> 	

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY FOURTH GRADER



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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

FALL



Visit your local library to find three different texts on American and European settlers. Review these text sources and take notes on what is similar or different about each source. bit.ly/FindMyLibrary

...
Everybody has a story. What do you want yours to be when you are old? Tell your story as you hope it will be when you are an adult.



Have your child teach you how to solve multiplication and division problems using different strategies.



Challenge your child to think of animals that do each of our five senses better than we do. Make a list and add to it as they think of other examples (e.g., dogs can hear and smell much better than humans).

...
Bounce a rubber ball at different heights and observe how this effects how high the ball bounces (and for how long afterwards). Ask your child to make the connection between this activity and potential and kinetic energy.



Visit the National Museum of the American Indian (free) or a National Park in D.C. Discuss the natural landscape of this area with your child and what benefits nature can bring to people.

...
Ask your child about the lives of different people in colonial America, including people who reflect their own identities. Discuss with your child how our nation, people, and institutions evolved over time to give people more rights.



Keep a journal recording how much time you spend reading each day! List your favorite characters from each story and identify a place in the story where the character shows a quality that you admire.

...
Visit the National Zoo! Record observations (like color, shape, and size) of your five favorite animals. Keep your observations as objective as possible. For example, "The lion is tan and strong."



WINTER



Paul Revere warned about the British coming on horseback. Write a warning message like Paul Revere's but for Facebook, a text message, Twitter or Instagram. How is this different?



Look for and identify fractions in the real world. Let your child explore measuring spoons and measuring cups and make observations and comparisons about the sizes of various fractions.

...
Look for fractions and decimals in sales advertisements. Have your child covert decimals to fractions and vice versa.



Ask your child to choose whether or not they could live without a television or a cell phone (or computer/tablet device). Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having one over the other.

...
Discuss the following "What If" scenario with your child: What if an earthquake was predicted for tomorrow? What would you do? What steps would you and your family take? Have them develop an emergency plan in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster.



Discuss cause and effects of things in your child's daily life, as well as how effects change depending on context.



Visit the American History Museum's Gunboat, Philadelphia exhibit. Then draw your own picture of the battle that sank the Philadelphia. Visit americanhistory.si.edu for more information.

...
Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit mnh.si.edu for more information.



SPRING



Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. While there, explore the exhibit on rocks and minerals. Select two different rocks/minerals and explore their similarities and differences. Then, determine how those rocks/minerals are used. Perhaps for jewelry? Perhaps for construction?



Identify angles in the real world. Identify these angles as acute, right or obtuse and then take reasonable guessing at the angle measurement.



Have your child rehearse their four-minute "We the People" Simulated Congressional Testimony, and ask follow-up questions to help them prepare for the Simulated Congressional Hearing.



Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival bit.ly/DCPSC Cherry.

...
Talk about a current event where people have either helped or hurt the environment. Discuss how the behavior will impact humans in the future.



English Language Arts



Math



Science



Social Studies



Enrichment Activity