

How reading benefits your child....

Long before children start school, they are gaining the skills and understandings they will need for success in school and in life—including the skills that lead to literacy. Literacy isn't just reading—it includes writing, speaking, listening, and all the ways we use language to interact and communicate with each other. Teachers and researchers know that learning literacy skills is easier for some children than for others. But, in general, those who arrive at school with the following kinds of experiences and understandings are at an advantage:

- Ability to recognize a variety of letters, signs, pictures, and sounds
- Exposure to spoken and written words and numbers
- Experience taking part in conversations, listening to stories, asking and answering questions, singing songs, and using language to communicate
- Exposure to books, magazines, newspapers, signs, games, and other forms of print
- Experience drawing, painting, and scribbling with pen, pencils, crayons, or paint.

Children who are exposed to literacy early and often are likely to become better readers and writers than those who lack this exposure, so look for opportunities to fill your child's world with print—books, magazines, charts, letters, drawings, and words of any kind. Encourage your child's emergent literacy by talking about words, pictures, and ideas. Read together and write messages and stories for each other. Look for opportunities to exercise your child's growing language skills. For other suggestions, visit the International Reading Association website, www.reading.org.

District Grading Scale-

90-100 A
80-89 B
70-79 C
60-69 D
0-59 F

PBIS – Positive Behavior & Supports.

Apollo and New Boston Elementary Schools use the PBIS Behavior Supports. This program teaches students how they are expected to behave in specific places and situations emphasizing respectful behavior. The purpose of the program is to reward students for making good choices. Students are rewarded with PBIS tickets when they are caught making good choices. There is a token economy set up and students can use these tickets to purchase rewards. Consequences are in place when students exhibit problem behaviors.

Important Links

Compass Odyssey Online Curriculum
<http://ap-compass.mercerschools.org/childu/index.html>

The National Standards
<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

MAP Testing Parent Toolkit
<http://www.nwea.org/sites/www.nwea.org/files/resources/Parent%20Toolkit.pdf>

AR Bookfinder
<http://www.arbookfind.com/UserType.aspx>

Lexile Find-a-book Website
<http://www.lexile.com/findabook/>

4th Grade

MERCER COUNTY ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS FOR FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS



Apollo Elementary
801 SW 9th St.
Aledo, IL
309-582-5350

New Boston Elementary
301 Jefferson St.
New Boston, IL
309-587-8141

www.mercerschools.org

4th Grade

adopted 8/2011
revised 8/2013

Fourth Grade Expectations:

Reading

Mercer County School District incorporates the five main research based components of literacy development.

Phonics-understand how letters represent sounds

Vocabulary-word meaning

Comprehension- understanding text

Fluency-reading with accuracy and speed

Fourth Grade students will:

1. Determine word meaning using root words and context clues from the story.
2. Locate information in textbooks, resource books, non-fiction texts, and on-line resources.
3. Understand and summarize important parts in a variety of text(facts, main idea, details, story elements, author's purpose, theme, cause and effect, genre, compare and contrast)
4. Consistently use reading strategies to better understand text -make predictions and inferences, use prior knowledge, ask questions, summarize, clarify understanding, make connections
5. Read with fluency (WPM = 136)

Writing:

Narrative - tell a story

Expository – explanatory, convey ideas and information

Research Report- build knowledge through investigation of different topics.

Persuasive – persuasive, opinion topics

Fourth grade students will:

1. Use a multi-step writing process .
2. Organize ideas using paragraphs.
3. Use descriptive words to create a variety of sentence patterns.
4. Use correct conventions (punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar).
5. Use technology, legible cursive, and print handwriting.

Speaking:

Engage effectively in discussions-building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Fourth grade students will:

1. Participate in group discussions on a variety of topics.
2. Organize thoughts using an introduction, supporting details, and a clear conclusion for oral presentations.
3. Include visual displays to enhance understanding.

Math

Mercer County School District incorporates the focus of instruction as stated in the Common Core Standards for Math.

Operations & Algebraic Thinking – multiplication and division.

Number & Operations in Base Ten – perform multi-digit arithmetic.

Number & Operations- Fraction understanding of fractions, ordering of fractions, decimals.

Measurement & Data – conversions, interpret data, geometric measurements

Geometry – identify lines and angles, classify shapes.

Fourth Grade students will:

1. Count and use numbers 1 to 1,000,000
2. Add and subtract fractions
3. Multiply and divide up to 3 digits
4. Understand place value to the million place
5. Compare common fractions and ordering
6. Use patterns to find missing numbers & symbols
7. Measure length, weight, volume (standards units), time, and conversion
8. Find area and perimeter of objects
9. Identify and draw angles, shapes, and lines
10. Communicate strategy to solve a word problem
11. Use the four operations to solve problems (whole number)

Science

NGSS

New Generation Science Standards Topics

1. Structure and Function
2. Earth's Systems: Processes that Shape the Earth.
3. Energy
4. Waves: Waves and Information
5. Engineering Design.