

4th Grade Main Lesson Blocks

Block: Alaska Geography and History

Date: Aug. 16- Sept. 16

Description: As the 4th grade child is growing more aware of his environment, he begins noticing more details that he hasn't noticed before. This block will start with learning about maps, beginning with what the child is most familiar with, (his bedroom, home, and yard), and branch out into the community, and then the borough. The students will learn about the indigenous people who lived in this area, the early settlers and why they came here, and the unique characteristics of this area. The students will also be learning how the human being is connected to the earth through our natural resources such as farming, mining, fishing, etc. and how human beings are connected to the people of the earth through systems of transport, trade, and commerce. Stories around heroes, heroines, and notable people of both past and present will be told.

Block: Science-- Zoology

Date: Sept. 19- Oct. 14

Description: The students follow a detailed study of a variety of animals and their habitats through poetry, clay modeling, painting, and play-acting to feel fascinating skills and qualities that animals possess. They will use descriptive writing and a scientific attitude as they record entries about these animals, noticing details, asking lots of questions, practicing record keeping, and developing patience as they observe animals. Each child will publish an inquiry-based animal report, starting with their own questions. Through this zoology block, the students will discover the specializations that animals possess. They will also see the unique and responsible position humans hold.

Block: Math

Date: Oct. 17- Nov. 11

Description: During the first math block, we will review long division and long multiplication, and will learn about factoring numbers, the factor "candelabra," abundant and deficient numbers, and will review, review, review and master all four operations for instant recall. We will also be using manipulatives to understand fractions as parts of a whole and as ratios, and will learn to add and subtract fractions with like denominators.

Block: Language Arts-- Norse Myths

Date: Nov. 14- Dec. 16

Description: We will review nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives, and will learn about prepositions, pronouns, interjections, and conjunctions. We will also be learning about clauses, phrases, compound and complex sentences, and the proper use of punctuation marks. These Language Arts skills will be learned through Norse myths, which are filled with laughter! With their powerful wills, their contentious nature, and their love of adventure, the Norse stories are similar to the nature of the 4th graders. Although these millennium-old myths may appear rather distant from modern life, we will learn about the impact they had on life in Europe and North America, and how their characters live on in America's tall tales, and even in our own language. These myths give children

strength to face challenges that may seem overwhelming.

Block: Alaska Geography & History

Date: Jan. 3- Jan. 27

Description: The second block of Alaska Geography and History will focus on the historical, economic, and cultural forces that changed the state. Among other things, we will be studying the importance of furs in the history of the state, the Russian influence, the gold rush, the Matanuska colonists, WW II in Alaska, the railroad and Alaska Highway, homesteads, Statehood, oil, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, earthquakes, tsunamis, and other forces of nature. We will also be learning about the cultural geography of our state, including the customs, ways of life, rituals, festivals, foods, clothing, ideals, arts and crafts of the indigenous people of Alaska and will be making some Native arts and crafts projects.

Block: Math

Date: Jan. 31- Feb. 24

Description: Our time during this block will be spent primarily with fractions. We will again be using many manipulatives to learn about equivalent fractions, multiplying and dividing fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators, improper fractions, solving word problems with fractions, working with mixed numbers, using factors, and being introduced to decimal fractions

Block: Language Arts-- Norse Myths

Date: Feb. 27- Mar. 30

Description: Once again, the characters in Norse Mythology are used for this Language Arts block, as their strong nature is fitting for the Grade 4 student, and as Norse myths contain conscious choice. In this second block, we will be reviewing all eight parts of speech that we have learned so far, in addition to the past, present and future tenses, the types of sentences, and proper use of punctuation.

SBA Preparation and Tests April 2-6

Block Preparation for class play

Date: Apr. 9- Apr. 20

Description: The students will practice reading and speaking with expression, appropriate volume, appropriate hand gestures and body language, and working together as a team, as we prepare and produce a class play.

Block: Zoology

Date: Apr. 23- May 18

Description: After learning more about animals and their habitats, the students will do a project about an animal they would like to learn more about, including a written report, a diorama of their habitat, and an artistic tribute about the animal.