

Dear Parent,

We're excited to have your child in Fourth Grade at Whitmore Lake Elementary School.



This is a very important year in your child's life, and we're pleased to be part of it.

At school, we're building on the skills that your child has already learned and we're introducing new ones. See this side of the brochure for details about what we're doing this year in Social Studies.

At home, your child can practice the skills we're learning at school. See the other side of this brochure for easy things that you can do to encourage that practice.

By working together, we can make sure that your child acquires the skills he or she needs to be successful in school and life.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help students:

Express informed opinions

- Gather information from books, maps, newspapers, graphs, charts, and timelines.
- Construct maps, graphs, and timelines.
- Investigate why different people have different points of view.
- Take a position on an issue and defend it.

Think historically

- Understand time and order of events.
- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret the past.
- Judge the causes and effects of key historical decisions.

Describe our world

- Explain global issues and events.
- Describe, compare, and explain location, characteristics of people, places, cultures.
- Understand the human impact on the environment.
- Understand how the environment affects trade and economies.

Be effective citizens

- Be a good citizen by following laws, rules.
- Know purposes of governing bodies and assess their effectiveness.
- Know the core Democratic values.
- Compare checks and balances at all government levels.
- Recognize that nations in the world interact with one another.

Make informed economic decisions

- Explain goods and services.
- Describe supply and demand.

In Fourth Grade, we teach Social Studies skills that will help your child:

Express informed opinions

- Use the internet to research information about Michigan.
- Debate issues related to Michigan history.
- Interpret charts and graphs.
- Read the textbook and other resources for information.

Think historically

- Read material from the fourth grade Michigan Social Studies book.
- Visit the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing and Greenfield Village.
- Read Michigan Social Studies Weekly, Michigan History for Kids, The Mitten.
- Create personal time-lines.
- Experience a pioneer unit and Pioneer Day.



Describe our world

- Learn to read maps and globes.
- Read the Ann Arbor News each week.
- Integrate Michigan studies with science unit on ecosystems.
- Construct maps of Michigan.

Be effective citizens

- Learn to apply the core Democratic values.
- Discuss the role of school rules.
- Understand Michigan government.
- Research the formation of our state government.

Make informed economic decisions

- Compare the economies of today and the 1840s (pioneer times).
- Look at the goods and services of yesteryear in comparison to today.



Parents:
Here are some
easy ways to
help your child
practice Social
Studies skills.

Express informed opinions

- Expose your child to current events through newspapers, television shows, magazines, etc.
- Discuss current events and differing points of views on appropriate issues.
- Ask your child his/her opinions on issues and ask for specific reasons to support his/her positions.

Think historically

- Introduce your child to biographical, historic and historical fiction books.
- Retell stories from when you were growing up or anything that you remember about Michigan's history.
- Have your child 'interview' a relative and ask how his/her life was the same/or different than theirs.
- Help your child make a photo album of his/her pictures and put them in chronological order.
- Visit Greenfield Village or museums and discuss the differences between 'then' and 'now.'



Describe our world

- Let your child look at maps whenever you are in the car. Have them figure out a route to your destination.
- Create a simple map of your home/your child's room/backyard, etc.
- Review Michigan geography to help plan a trip.

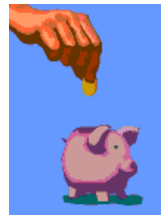


Be effective citizens

- Discuss our government's leaders with your child so that s/he understands the roles of president, governor, and mayor.
- Discuss the role of federal, state and local government in our lives.
- Discuss with your child why rules are necessary in your family.
- Encourage behavior that is kind to others.
- Allow your child to experience the consequences when s/he does not abide by ordinary rules.
- Remind your child what 'good choices' involve.

Make informed economic decisions

- Have your child earn an allowance and provide opportunities for your child to manage his/her own money.
- Help your child understand the difference between "wants" and "needs."
- Give your child situations in which s/he can decide which object is more important to purchase.
- Discuss the value of a decision your child might make when purchasing an item.



In Fourth Grade,
we're teaching
your child
important
citizenship skills.

What are these skills?

*How can you help your child
practice them?*



*...exceptional,
personalized education*

**For more good ideas, ask your
child's teacher, or contact:**

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