

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 English and Language Arts.

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.

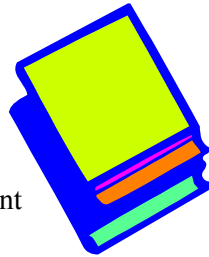
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. When you have questions, please feel free to contact us at 449-2051.

Sincerely,
The Fourth Grade Teachers

In every grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help students:

Communicate Ideas

- Read and understand fiction and non-fiction materials.
- Write clear and correct sentences, paragraphs and compositions.
- Create meaning as they listen, speak, view, read and write.
- Use language to express ideas to different audiences and for different purposes.



Understand Literature

- Read, respond to, and reflect on ideas found in a variety of materials.
- Explore and reflect on universal themes in oral, visual, and written texts.
- Apply what is learned to everyday life.

Use Language

- Identify and use correct spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Describe and use various story elements.
- Use main ideas with supporting details in writing.
- Express ideas creatively.
- Explore and use tools found in books and media to help with understanding.

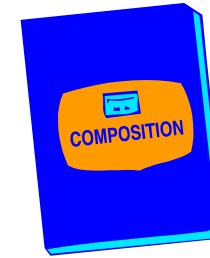
Apply Knowledge

- Develop and use strategies to connect what they're learning to their lives.
- Check their own progress when using these strategies.
- Evaluate their work using set guidelines.

In Fourth Grade, we teach English/Language Arts skills that will help your child:

Communicate Ideas

- Use writing models such as 6+1 Traits of Writing, and "Barry in a Box" to communicate ideas effectively.
- Write Young Author's books.
- Use the steps of the writing process: pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.



Understand Literature

- Share ideas about what was read in Literary Circles.
- Refine techniques for learning new words in context.
- Compare informational and narrative text to further understand both.

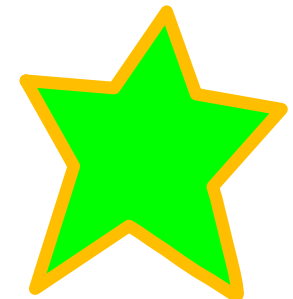
Use Language

- Use knowledge about the structure of stories to recall and make inferences about stories.
- Correctly identify and use parts of speech.
- Respond to and appreciate literary forms and devices to gain insight into self and others.



Apply Knowledge

- Use strategies for reading and studying text materials.
- Expand their knowledge of standard usage, sentence structure, and spelling.

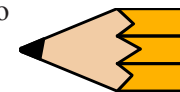


Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Rd.
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189



Apply Knowledge

- Give your child a reason to write (thank-you notes, a journal, grocery list).
- Help your child make connections between what is read and himself or herself, other material that was read, and what your child knows about the world.



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Communicate Ideas

- Get your child a library card and visit the library together, regularly.
- Read aloud to your child every day. Choose all kinds of material.
- Talk to your child about his or her favorite things.
- Ask questions about the movies you watch together.
- Model good listening for your child. Pay attention when your child is talking.
- Encourage conversations at home (dinner together, a “No TV” night).




Understand Literature

- Ask “wh” questions as you read a book together or when your child is talking about a book (Who, What, When, etc.).

Use Language

- Have your child keep a diary of family trips, etc.
- Write notes to your child and put them in his/her lunch.
- Encourage your child to write stories.



...exceptional,
personalized education

For more good ideas, ask your child's teacher, or contact:
Whitmore Lake Elementary School
1077 Barker Road • Whitmore Lake
Michigan • 48189
(734) 449-2051 • <http://www.wlps.net>

In Fourth Grade, we're teaching your child important reading and language skills.

What are these skills?

How can you help your child practice them?