

RATIONALE

The basic activities in an effective English Language Arts program is to equip students to combine a variety of sequentially acquired skills to derive meaning from text and other forms of communication. The fourth grade teacher guides students through an ELA program to help them learn, practice, apply, and integrate specific skills so that they can become independent readers and writers. However, students need to go beyond basic activities to become proficient readers, creative writers, and expressive speakers who benefit from the pleasures, inspirations, and knowledge gained from knowing how to read and effectively communicate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The fourth grade ELA course has four main components: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. The ELA curriculum provides the learner with a foundation on which to build. Various approaches are used to integrate all components.

IMPORTANT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Reading:

1. Use details and examples literature and informational texts when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences
2. Determine the theme of a story
3. Summarize literature and informational texts
4. Determine the main idea and key details from an informative text
5. Compare and contrast the points of view in literature and informational texts
6. Describe the overall structure in an informational text
7. Know and apply fourth grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
8. Read and comprehend literature and informational texts in the grades 4-5 text complexity band fluently and proficiently

Written Communication:

1. Write opinion and narrative pieces and informative/explanatory texts that introduces a topic, develops a topic with facts and details, and includes a conclusion
2. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing
3. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigations of a topic
4. Write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening:

1. Engage in collaborative discussions in an one-on-one, group, and teacher-led settings
2. Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in media and other formats
3. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience using facts and details and speaking clearly in coherent, complete sentences
4. Add audio recordings and visuals to presentations

Language:

1. Use the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
2. Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
4. Determine the meaning of unknown words based on grade 4 reading and content

EVALUATION

Fourth grade students will be evaluated primarily through objective testing which includes daily assignments, classroom activities, written assignments, standardized tests, Benchmark assessments, and MAP.