

(8.9 - 9.9 years of age)

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BASIC INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM  
GRADE FOUR

The following skills are a part of the basic instructional program at grade four. The skills represent the typical expectations for the grade. These expectations are, of course, modified or expanded to meet individual student achievement levels.

Skills introduced at each grade level build on the skills taught in previous grades. The manner of instruction and how it occurs -- motivation, grouping, pacing, reinforcing, reteaching -- is determined by each teacher as he/she works with his/her class.

● **READING**

Vocabulary

- Word recognition: . learns new words in content fields  
. recognizes compound words, root words, synonyms, antonyms, prefixes, suffixes, plurals, hyphenated words, contractions, possessives
- Word meaning: . gets meaning from context  
. extends dictionary skills

Word Attack Skills

- . phonic skills: single consonants and blends, short and long vowels
- . knows vowel generalization
- . knows prefixes dis, ex, in, ab, anti, com, con, de, em, inter, mis, non, of, pre, post, per, pro, sub, super, trans, tri
- . knows function of basic punctuation
- . can decode multi-syllabic words

Comprehension

- . finds main idea
- . locates detail
- . can generalize
- . can predict outcome
- . uses context clues
- . can take notes, do informal outlining

Oral & Silent Reading

- . has opportunities to read poetry
- . has opportunities to hear good literature
- . has opportunities for sustained silent reading

● **MATH**

Numbers & Operations

- . adds 4 digit numbers with consecutive and non-consecutive regroupings including money
- . subtracts 4 digit numbers with regrouping, including money and involving zeroes
- . multiplies 2 place by 1 digit number with or without regrouping.
- . multiplies 3 place number by 1 digit number with regrouping
- . multiplies 2 place number by 2 digit number with regrouping
- . multiplies 3 place number by 2 digit number with and without regrouping
- . divides 2 or 3 place number by 1 digit divisor with or without remainders
- . divides 2 or 3 place number by 2 digit divisor with or without remainders

Measurement /Geometry

- . reads and writes time to the minute
- . performs practical applications of measurement with metric tools using the units of metre, litre and gram
- . knows meaning of the area of geometric figures

Problem Solving

- . solves practical simple written and/or oral word problems involving multiplication and division
- . finds averages of three or more numbers

(over)

Fractions -- Common and Decimal

- . adds fractions with like and unlike denominators
- . subtracts fractions with like and unlike denominators
- . writes mixed numbers and/or improper fractions and compares them to the whole
- . reads and writes decimals involving hundredths
- . adds and subtracts 2 or more decimals involving tenths

● **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Written Skills

- . can identify main idea
- . can summarize
- . can edit and improve writing from suggestions
- . can support main idea with appropriate data
- . can identify and write various types of paragraphs: explaining, describing, giving directions
- . writes stories, poems, invitations, business and social letters
- . expands report writing

Oral Skills

- . can listen to others
- . can participate in a discussion

Spelling

- . knows multiple spellings for long, short vowels
- . knows how to form plural with "es"
- . spells frequently needed words

Grammar

- . knows noun phrase, verb phrase, pronoun

Punctuation

- . uses periods and commas correctly
- . uses apostrophes and question marks correctly

Capitalization

- . capitalizes correctly

Handwriting

- . knows correct letter form
- . writes in cursive neatly and clearly in drill and application

● **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Geography

- . can locate and name the 7 continents and 4 oceans
- . shows ability to understand rotation and revolution of the earth
- . knows the geography and major climate features of California

Understandings

- . describes ways in which cities differ (size, growth patterns, environmental dependency)
- . has knowledge of the major events in California history
- . has knowledge of the contributions of minority groups to the growth of California
- . has knowledge of factors which cause cities to grow

● **SCIENCE**

- . explores and investigates a topic from each of three areas of science, i.e. natural science, physical science, and general or earth/space science
- . topic investigation combines the development of conceptual understandings with activity experiences in the processes of science, i.e. observing; inferring; classifying; measuring; making and testing hypotheses; collecting, organizing and interpreting data; experimenting; identifying and controlling variables; and predicting

● **MUSIC**

- . recognizes various musical structures and forms
- . develops good technique of singing: tone production, pitch control, phrasing
- . sings 2-part songs accurately
- . creates simple melodies and accompaniments
- . can identify names of notes in treble and bass clef and basic symbols

● **ART**

- . can identify a variety of careers attainable through proficiency in art
- . draws and paints figures (human, animal) in approximate proportion; creates comfortably in several art media
- . recognizes the work of several painters and sculptors
- . is building an art vocabulary

● **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- . demonstrates skill in games which lead up to team activities
- . participates in rhythm activities -- folk dance, square dance, jump rope
- . can do tumbling and stunt activities
- . participates in relays and games