



**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL**  
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# **LOWER SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE**

# **2025-26**

# INTRODUCTION

We are proud to offer a variety of courses to help our students develop their interests and critical thinking skills in a truly vibrant and innovative atmosphere. Our staff of dedicated professionals understand the importance of nurturing and encouraging students while stimulating them to expand their horizons. Our student body contains talented artists, athletes, students, and creative thinkers. The Village Lower School prepares students to be successful not only in lower school, but also in life.

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## THE VILLAGE SCHOOL MISSION

The Village School, an international community, is committed to developing inquisitive life-long learners prepared to think critically, to collaborate genuinely, and to give of themselves generously, as they prepare to lead the next generation into an ever-changing world.

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**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL**

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**PRE-K**

## PK2 OVERVIEW

Our youngest learners are naturally curious and learn by hands on interactions and experiences. We cultivate their curiosity by providing learning opportunities that give them space to explore, wonder, and investigate. Teachers and fellow students are there to guide and encourage each other while asking questions and using what they know to discover new knowledge. Early literacy and pre-math skills are seamlessly woven into activities throughout the day such as song, dramatic play, Science inquiries, and problem solving games. Students also work on self help skills such as hand washing and cleaning up to foster independence and confidence. Social and emotional development is one of the largest areas of growth in our youngest learners as they navigate their own big feelings and begin to understand others around them. In our 2-year-old program, all of learning experiences are designed around the idea that children use play to learn.

Social and Emotional Development	Gross and Fine Motor Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our students are experiencing rapid cognitive, emotional, and social changes. They are beginning to understand their emotions and those of others. We help them navigate this complex world of feelings and relationships through: emotion recognition, self regulation, and empathy development. By providing a safe and loving environment where emotions are accepted and understood, we set the stage for their emotional well-being and future relationships.</li> <li>• Conscious Discipline is integrated into our curriculum and is built on the understanding that discipline is not just about correcting behavior but also about teaching valuable life skills and promoting emotional intelligence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gross motor skills are essential physical abilities that involve the use of large muscle groups to enable children to explore their environment, interact and engage in physical activities that contribute to their overall health and fitness. The development of these skills are essential for cognitive development by stimulating the brain and enhancing neural connections.</li> <li>• Fine motor skills involve small muscles working with the brain and nervous system to control movements in areas such as the hands, fingers, lips, tongue and eyes. Developing fine motor skills helps children do things like eating, writing, manipulating objects and getting dressed.</li> </ul>
Pre-Literacy	Math and Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Pre-K2 program focuses on language development and creating a print-rich learning environment. Children are exposed to stimulating books, storytelling, and music/movement activities.</li> <li>• Name identification, counting out loud, learning words to familiar songs, labeling common objects appropriately, using simple sentences, and following directions are all the work of twos.</li> <li>• Children explore a variety of concepts including the family, the body, senses, and feelings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math is hands on and play based. Games and activities are integrated into the day for children begin to identify similarities and match or categorize like-objects. Sequencing projects, matching games and making connections help develop early reasoning skills.</li> <li>• Math is incorporated in our class through music, art, games and real life experiences. Science is experienced through exploration and immersion.</li> <li>• A multi-sensory approach engages the children in exploring the world around them. Hands-on explorations are at the heart of our project studies.</li> </ul>

## PK3 OVERVIEW

Our PK3 program is designed with a whole-child approach, nurturing every aspect of a child’s development—social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive—while also building foundational skills in academics and the arts. Learning is play-based, encouraging children to explore, create, and discover through hands-on experiences that make learning meaningful and fun. Through project-based investigations, or “studies,” children dive into engaging topics like cameras, balls, or wheels, applying what they’ve learned across subject areas. The program balances teacher-guided instruction with child-initiated activities, allowing children to follow their interests while also engaging in structured learning. Teachers observe each child’s growth and use strategies and tools to tailor learning experiences that meet individual needs and strengths. Curriculum is designed to meet students at their developmental phase and support their continued growth.

Social and Emotional Development	Cognitive Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children develop key social-emotional skills that help them manage emotions, follow rules, build friendships, and understand how their actions affect others. Through play and guided routines, they learn empathy, cooperation, and self-control. Teachers support this growth by modeling positive behavior and creating opportunities for teamwork and problem-solving. Children practice kindness, resilience, and conflict resolution in meaningful ways.</li> <li>Conscious Discipline is woven into our curriculum to teach emotional intelligence and life skills, nurturing both behavior and personal growth. We focus on teaching valuable life skills while fostering the development of emotional intelligence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a positive approach to learning is key to building curiosity and confidence. Children begin to explore new ideas with interest, try new things, and stay focused on tasks. They start to remember past experiences and connect them to new learning, which deepens understanding.</li> <li>Symbolic thinking grows as children use objects or pictures to represent real things—like pretending a block is a phone. Through pretend play, children make sense of the world, express emotions, and practice problem-solving.</li> <li>Teachers support these skills by creating playful, engaging environments with open-ended materials, storytelling, and opportunities for imagination, helping children build a strong foundation for future learning.</li> </ul>
Language and Literacy	Math and Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preschoolers build key language and literacy skills that lay the groundwork for reading, writing, and communication.</li> <li>They learn to understand complex language, express their thoughts, and engage in conversations. Through storytelling, songs, and guided discussions, teachers support these skills in playful ways.</li> <li>As children explore books, they begin to hear sounds in words, recognize letters, understand how print works, and respond to stories.</li> <li>These experiences lead to early writing, such as writing their name or sharing ideas with pictures and letters. A literacy-rich classroom helps children grow into confident early readers and writers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early math skills are introduced through playful, hands-on experiences that help children explore numbers, shapes, and spatial relationships. They begin to understand concepts like counting, comparing sizes, and identifying “more” or “less” through activities like building and pouring.</li> <li>Teachers support this growth by offering engaging materials, encouraging curiosity, and guiding problem-solving through thoughtful questions.</li> <li>Emphasis on using scientific inquiry skills, encouraging children to explore, investigate, and learn about the world around them. Promoting the development of knowledge about the characteristics of living things, the physical properties of materials, and Earth's environment.</li> </ul>

## PK4 OVERVIEW

In our PK4 program, we continue to nurture your child’s social and emotional development while building on their cognitive growth. We help children develop a growth mindset by encouraging perseverance, flexibility, and confidence when facing new challenges. Through engaging activities, we foster positive attitudes toward learning and support the development of independence and problem-solving skills. All of this lays the foundation for kindergarten readiness and a smooth transition into academic learning.

Social and Emotional Development	Cognitive Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children develop key social-emotional skills that help manage emotions, follow rules, build friendships, and understand how their actions affect others.</li> <li>Through play and guided routines, they learn empathy, cooperation, and self-control. Teachers support this growth by modeling positive behavior and creating opportunities for teamwork and problem-solving. These everyday interactions help children practice kindness, resilience, and conflict resolution in meaningful ways.</li> <li>Conscious Discipline is woven into our curriculum to teach emotional intelligence and life skills, nurturing both behavior and personal growth. We focus on valuable life skills while fostering the development of emotional intelligence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cognitive development is marked by growing curiosity, deeper thinking, and stronger memory skills. Children begin to explore new ideas with purpose, persist through challenges, and make meaningful connections between past experiences and new information.</li> <li>Their abstract thinking expands as they use language, drawings, and pretend play to represent real-life situations, solve problems, and express their ideas.</li> <li>Teachers nurture this growth by offering rich, open-ended learning experiences—such as building projects, science investigations, and collaborative games—that strengthen attention, reasoning, and creativity in preparation for continued academic success.</li> </ul>

## Literacy

We build early reading and writing skills by exploring books, recognizing letters and sounds, and playing with words. As they listen, speak, and share ideas through stories and conversation, they deepen comprehension, expand vocabulary, and begin to express themselves through drawing, dictation, and early writing.

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand print concepts and handle books properly</li> <li>Recognize and manipulate sounds and link to letters</li> <li>Ask and answer questions, retell stories, and describe illustrations</li> <li>Recall, act out, and connect with informational texts</li> <li>Dictate ideas, tell stories, and write first name</li> <li>Join conversations, speak clearly, follow directions, and use new words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Handle books correctly and follow print direction</li> <li>Recognize letters and connect them to sounds</li> <li>Identify and play with beginning, middle, and ending sounds</li> <li>Blend, segment, and rhyme spoken words</li> <li>Ask and answer questions about stories and texts</li> <li>Retell stories, describe illustrations, and recall details</li> <li>Dictate ideas, tell stories, and write name</li> <li>Speak clearly, follow directions, and join conversations</li> </ul>

## Math

PExperiences lay a vital foundation for future learning by nurturing number sense, problem-solving skills, and confidence through playful, hands-on exploration. At this age, children begin to grasp key concepts such as counting, comparing quantities, recognizing patterns, and identifying shapes—skills that grow progressively over time. These early experiences do more than support cognitive development; they spark curiosity, build persistence, and encourage critical thinking, all of which are essential for success in school and beyond.

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recite numbers to 10 and recognize some numerals.</li> <li>Identify small quantities without counting and understand total amounts.</li> <li>Compare groups using terms like more, less, or same.</li> <li>Recognize and create simple patterns; sort objects by attributes.</li> <li>Compare objects by size or weight and understand spatial positions.</li> <li>Identify and describe various shapes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recite numbers to 20 and recognize some numerals.</li> <li>Count forward within a known number sequence.</li> <li>Understand adding or taking away one changes a group's size by one.</li> <li>Combine and separate groups of objects.</li> <li>Solve simple addition and subtraction problems.</li> <li>Extend and create simple repeating patterns.</li> <li>Order objects by size and measure length using uniform units.</li> </ul>

## Inquiry

Children learn through hands-on exploration, self-discovery, and meaningful connections with others. They develop a sense of identity, build relationships, and begin to understand how things work in their environment. Through play, conversation, and observation, children strengthen communication, problem-solving, and thinking skills that lay the foundation for future learning.

Semester 1	Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Who We Are: All About Me and My Family</b> Children explore their identities by sharing about themselves, their families, and traditions through stories, art, and conversations.</li> <li><b>Where We Are in Place and Time: Simple Machines</b> Children investigate how simple machines like ramps, pulleys, and levers help us move objects and solve everyday problems through hands-on exploration and play.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How We Express Ourselves: Friends and Community</b> Children learn to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas through play, storytelling, art, and building relationships with friends and community helpers.</li> <li><b>Nature Around Us – How the World Works</b> Children explore the natural world by observing weather, plants, animals, and seasonal changes through outdoor play, science activities, and guided discovery.</li> </ul>





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# KINDERGARTEN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Kindergarten readers and writers will develop early literacy skills through a balanced program of reading, writing, and word study instruction. A central focus will be on building students’ phonological awareness and letter sound knowledge through guided practice, spelling games, and assessments. Students will also learn strategies for decoding words and reading with fluency through independent, small group, and whole class reading experiences, as well as teacher reading conferences.

Kindergartners will explore a variety of genres including fairy tales, animals tales and nonfiction books. Kindergartners will begin to learn how to express their ideas through writing. They will learn to write all lowercase and capital letters, how to label an illustration, to produce simple sentences with appropriate punctuation, and spacing between words. Kindergartners will learn how to write stories, poems, and informational text. Finally, students will also receive regular handwriting instruction, study sight words and high frequency words.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><b>Reading: We Are Readers</b></p> <p>This unit focuses on establishing a reading identity for students and building foundational reading skills. It aims to foster a love for reading and equip students with the tools and knowledge to become confident readers.</p> <p><b>Writing: Launching the Writing Workshop</b></p> <p>This unit focuses on introducing young learners to the structure and routines of a writing workshop, helping them embrace their identities as writers and fostering a positive classroom writing community. It also emphasizes drawing and labeling as initial forms of writing, gradually transitioning to more conventional spelling and sentence construction.</p>	<p><b>Reading: Sharing Reading</b></p> <p>In this unit, students will build foundational knowledge about the seasons and weather. Research shows that the more children know, the easier it is for them to keep learning and understanding new information. By exploring weather patterns and how they change with the seasons, students become “experts” on a topic that helps them grow their vocabulary, comprehension, and curiosity about the world around them.</p> <p>At the same time, students are also strengthening their early reading skills. They will focus on recognizing letters and sounds, understanding how words are made, and learning high-frequency words such as at and in. This combination of building knowledge and practicing reading helps children become confident, capable readers.</p> <p><b>Writing: We Are Writers</b></p> <p>In this unit, students will write informational pieces with a strong personal connection. They begin by bringing in special show-and-tell items from home, drawing them using basic shapes, and labeling parts of the objects with their own spelling attempts. This early writing helps students take risks and develop confidence, as they are encouraged to be “brave spellers.” As the unit continues, students will draw and label places that matter to them, creating multi-page booklets with more detailed labels and phrases.</p>

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><b>Reading Unit 3: Super Powers: Reading With Phonics and Sight Word Power</b> During this unit, students will continue to build knowledge around phonics features, especially short vowels, and use that knowledge to decode words, learning to read the whole word.</p> <p>Students will also continue to build an understanding of how fiction texts go and what fiction texts contain - characters, settings, problems, and solutions, and often, lessons learned. Students will broaden their feeling vocabulary so they can draw on words other than happy and sad to discuss their feelings and the feelings of the characters they meet in books.</p> <p><b>Reading Unit 4: Boosting Reading Power</b> This unit launches with students diving into the story elements and learning how to use those story elements to predict, understand, and retell a story thereby building their understanding of how stories go. As students develop their ability to attend to the literal aspects of a narrative text, students also develop inference skills, especially predicting and inferring characters' feelings.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 3: Writing For Readers: Writing Readable True Stories</b> This unit accomplishes two big goals. It brings students into the world of story and it helps them write readable writing, drawing on their knowledge of letters, sounds, and high frequency words. During this unit, students are asked to transfer what they have learned from phonics to their writing, and to write in such a way that they can reread their writing, and that others can read their writing.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 5: Becoming Avid Readers</b> This unit centers students' comprehension skills, especially their responses to and understanding of books and lots of chances to practice oral language as they respond to questions from their classmates. Students are encouraged to make their conversations more dramatic by using their bodies, facial expressions, and intonation to communicate with partners and peers.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 4: Persuasive Writing of All Kinds: Using Words to Make a Change</b> In this unit, kindergarteners will experience the power and purposes of argument writing in its most beginning stages. This persuasive writing unit teaches students not just how to write, but also why writers write, immersing them in real-world purposes for writing. Across the unit, students will learn ways writing is for real purposes. Writing involves making letters to be mailed, songs to be sung and chants to be performed. Students will experience many choices as they try to persuade others to their way of thinking.</p>

## MATHEMATICS

Kindergarten mathematicians will begin to build their number sense and explore the relationship between numbers and quantities. They will learn counting strategies and different ways to show amounts through objects, drawings, and numbers. They will learn to write numerals from 0-20 and begin to compare numbers.

Kindergartners will begin to solve simple addition and subtraction problems, and represent word problems using objects or drawings. Students will also explore features of geometric shapes by drawing shapes, building with shapes, and searching for shapes in the environment. Finally, students will also compare and describe objects of different lengths and weights, and learn to create graphs to show data.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the Physical Quantity of Numbers</li> <li>Using Fingers and Numbers</li> <li>Talking About and Making Shapes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing Numbers Inside of Numbers</li> <li>Putting Numbers Together</li> <li>Describing and Sorting Objects</li> <li>Seeing and Making Patterns Everywhere</li> <li>Stretching Counting Towards 100</li> </ul>

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the Physical Quantity of Numbers</li> <li>Using Fingers and Numbers</li> <li>Talking About and Making Shapes</li> <li>Seeing Numbers Inside of Numbers</li> <li>Putting Numbers Together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing and Sorting Objects</li> <li>Seeing and Making Patterns Everywhere</li> <li>Stretching Counting Towards 100</li> <li>Big Idea Math Carnival</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

In the Units of Inquiry, Kindergartners will explore big questions about the physical and social world around them. Students will investigate questions in relation to the social studies concepts such as identity, rights and responsibilities, family, community, and cooperation.

They will also explore science units such as the forces and motion, energy, Earth's systems, and Earth and human activity. They will learn how to plan and conduct scientific experiments. The Units of Inquiry will be guided by student questions and will integrate with informational research and writing skills. At the end of each Inquiry Unit, students will showcase their learning with a student lead project and presentation.

Quarter 1 Who We Are	Quarter 2 Where We Are in Place and Time
<p>Explore how choices affect people's identity and relationships. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict and cooperation</li> <li>• Rights and responsibilities</li> <li>• The impact of family and school on our lives</li> <li>• Ways to deal with disagreements</li> </ul>	<p>Investigate the ways in which innovation connect local and global communities. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The concept of location</li> <li>• Maps and graphs</li> <li>• Stories about past events, people, and places</li> <li>• Why people live in social groups</li> <li>• Forces of motion on an object</li> </ul>

Quarter 3 How We Express Ourselves	Quarter 4 How the World Works
<p>Examine how people are the same and different around the world. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals as part of a group</li> <li>• Needs and wants</li> <li>• Social groups we belong to (family, community, school)</li> </ul>	<p>Study how living things go through patterns of change. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools and techniques</li> <li>• Effects of sunlight on Earth's surface</li> <li>• What plants and animals need to survive</li> <li>• Observations of weather conditions</li> <li>• Impact of humans on the environment</li> </ul>



**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL**

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**GRADE 1**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

First-grade readers and writers will continue to develop their emergent literacy skills through a balanced program of reading, writing, and word study instruction. In First Grade, students will learn several strategies for decoding new words and identifying common sight words. They will also focus on building their reading fluency through independent, small group, teacher reading conferences, and whole-class reading experiences.

They will further develop reading comprehension skills and strategies for narrative and informational text, and begin to respond to books both orally and in writing. First graders will explore a variety of genres including realistic fiction, folktales, fantasy, and non-fiction books. First graders will also learn to express their ideas through writing in multiple ways. They will write personal narratives, creative stories, expressive poems, informational books, and opinion pieces.

Students will experience the writing process as they, plan, draft, and edit their writing. They will also learn how to write complete sentences with correct punctuation, and how to expand on their sentences using adjectives and conjunctions. Students will also receive regular handwriting instruction. Finally, students will explore letter sounds and spelling patterns through weekly word sorts, games, and spelling checks. They will learn short and long vowel sounds, beginning consonant sounds, common word endings, and more.

### Quarter 1

#### Reading Unit 1: Building Good Reading Habits

Students will deepen their understanding of how stories work by exploring characters, settings, and problem-solving while connecting these elements to their own lives. They'll also strengthen essential skills like rhyming, sound identification, and word blending that prepare them for first-grade reading.

#### Writing Unit 1: Small Moments

Students will learn to share their own "small moment" stories, starting by telling them aloud and then writing them down using pictures and words. They'll develop precise language by choosing specific action and feeling words, add sensory details to bring their stories to life, and learn the complete writing process from planning and drafting to revising, editing, illustrating, and publishing their work. Students will build confidence as a writer, ultimately seeing themselves as an author.

### Quarter 2

#### Reading Unit 2: Word Detectives

In this nonfiction unit, students will discover how informational books are organized and explore text features such as tables of contents, headings, pictures, diagrams, and captions that help readers learn from nonfiction books. Students will connect new information to what they already know, ask questions, and share ideas with classmates through partnerships.

#### Writing Unit 2: Topic Books

In this informational writing unit, students will write about topics they know and care about, making their writing meaningful and engaging. They will talk through their ideas with others, helping them think more deeply and creatively about their chosen topics. Students become researchers, looking closely at topics and adding detailed vocabulary that describes. Through this process of talking, researching, and writing, students develop both stronger writing skills and deeper knowledge about the world.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### Quarter 3

#### **Reading Unit 3: Learning About the World**

This reading unit develops students into researchers who build expertise through nonfiction texts. Students explore diverse topics, developing deep knowledge in subjects that interest them while strengthening essential reading skills.

Students build reading comprehension skills, expand vocabulary, and develop questioning abilities that support their learning across subjects. The unit emphasizes that deep knowledge in specific topics enhances overall academic understanding.

#### **Reading Unit 4: Readers Have Big Jobs To Do (Continues into Quarter 4)**

This reading unit introduces students to scientific concepts through science books and read-aloud lessons. Students build scientific knowledge while developing reading comprehension skills through nonfiction texts.

Students strengthen nonfiction reading skills by working with various text structures and practice identifying main topics and key details in scientific texts.

#### **Writing Unit 3: Writing Reviews**

This writing unit teaches students to express their opinions clearly and support them with well-organized reasons. Students learn that writing provides a powerful way to share what they care about and defend their viewpoints.

### Quarter 4

#### **Reading Unit 5: Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons**

This reading unit helps students understand character emotions and develop empathy while building knowledge about important real-world topics. Students learn that people experience many different feelings and explore the reasons behind emotional changes.

Students deepen their understanding of story structure by focusing on narrators, main and secondary characters, character motivations, and common lessons found in books.

#### **Writing Unit 4: From Scenes to Series**

This writing unit teaches students to create believable stories based on real-life experiences and relatable characters. Students learn that realistic fiction mirrors the world they know, featuring ordinary people facing everyday challenges.

Through this unit, students create stories that are both believable and engaging while developing stronger writing skills and self-expression abilities.



# MATHEMATICS

First Grade mathematicians will build their number sense, fact fluency and problem-solving skills. They will develop addition and subtraction strategies, learn tens and ones place value, and begin to solve word problems. Students will also explore measurement and learn how to measure length using different units, how to tell and write time to the hour and half hour, and how to represent and interpret data on graphs. First graders will also learn some geometric shapes and their properties and learn to recognize them in their physical environment.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building With and Talking About Shapes</li> <li>• Tens and Ones are a Useful Way to Organize</li> <li>• Representing and Modeling Joining and Separating Situations</li> <li>• Using Data to Wonder About Our World</li> <li>• Equal Means the Same</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building With Numbers Within 20</li> <li>• Finding Patterns Within Numbers</li> <li>• Using Place Value to Add and Subtract</li> <li>• Using Units to Measure Our World</li> <li>• Partitioning Shapes into Equal Parts</li> </ul>

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building With Numbers Within 20</li> <li>• Finding Patterns Within Numbers</li> <li>• Using Place Value to Add and Subtract</li> <li>• Using Units to Measure Our World</li> <li>• Partitioning Shapes into Equal Parts</li> <li>• Building With Numbers Within 20</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding Patterns Within Numbers</li> <li>• Using Place Value to Add and Subtract</li> <li>• Using Units to Measure Our World</li> <li>• Partitioning Shapes into Equal Parts</li> <li>• Project Based Unit: Big Ideas</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

In the Units of Inquiry, First Graders will explore big questions about the physical and social world around them. Students will investigate questions in relation to social studies concepts such as geography, culture, identity, and society. They will also explore science units such as waves and their applications, molecules and organisms, as well as Earth's place in the universe. They will also learn how to plan and conduct scientific experiments. The Units of Inquiry will be guided by student questions and will integrate with informational research and writing skills.

<b>Quarter 1</b> <b>Who We Are</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b> <b>Where We Are in Place and Time</b>
<p><i>An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, and social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.</i></p> <p>First graders will explore how sharing roles and responsibilities helps a community to function. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Characteristics of good citizens.</li> <li>• Qualities of responsible leaders.</li> <li>• The importance of leadership and service.</li> <li>• Solutions to real-world problems.</li> <li>• One's own identity and their place in the world.</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations, and migrations of humankind; the relationship between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.</i></p> <p>First graders will investigate the ways in which human and natural forces cause change. Using inquiry, students will learn about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps, graphs, and tables to read and display geographic information</li> <li>• How tools and techniques have changed people's lives</li> <li>• Observations of the sun, moon, and stars to describe and predict patterns</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

<b>Quarter 3</b> <b>How We Express Ourselves</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b> <b>How the World Works</b>
<p><i>An inquiry into how we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs, and values; how we reflect on, extend, and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.</i></p> <p>First graders will examine how successful communities are built by people living in social groups. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes culture.</li> <li>• Explain different social groups (e.g. families, communities, nations).</li> <li>• Give examples of cooperation and conflict</li> <li>• Past, present, and future.</li> </ul>	<p><i>An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.</i></p> <p>First graders will study how sound and light waves assist communications across distances. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sound and vibrating materials.</li> <li>• Properties of light and darkness.</li> <li>• Communicating over distances.</li> <li>• How to plan and conduct investigations.</li> <li>• Goods and services</li> </ul>



**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL**

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**GRADE 2**

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Second-grade readers and writers will continue to develop their emergent literacy skills through a balanced program of reading, writing, and word study instruction. In Second Grade, students will expand on their decoding and fluency strategies through independent, small group, teacher reading conferences, and whole-class reading experiences. A central focus will be on developing reading comprehension skills and strategies for narrative text, informational text, and poetry. They will focus on understanding plot and character development, and begin to understand point of view.

Second graders will explore a variety of genres including realistic fiction, folktales, fantasy, and non-fiction books. Second graders will learn to express their ideas through writing in multiple ways. They will write detailed stories, expressive poems, informational books, and opinion pieces. They will learn writing techniques such as dialogue and expanding on a moment. Students will experience the writing process as they, plan, draft, and edit their writing.

They will also learn how to write complete sentences with correct punctuation, and how to expand on their sentences using pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs. Students will also receive regular handwriting instruction for manuscripts. Finally, students will explore letter sounds and spelling patterns through weekly word sorts, games, and assessments. They will learn consonant blends and digraphs, vowel teams, and more. Students will also practice common sight words and high-frequency words.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><b>Reading Unit 1: Becoming a Big Kid Reader</b></p> <p>This reading unit teaches students to understand how characters express strong emotions while building knowledge about different cultures and languages. Students explore deep feelings like friendship, love, and loss, connecting these experiences to their own relationships and emotions.</p> <p>Students practice identifying characters' feelings through careful attention to dialogue, actions, and illustration details rather than waiting for authors to explicitly state emotions.</p> <p>Students strengthen their reading comprehension skills by learning to notice when characters teach or learn important lessons. They also explore how writers use various craft techniques to bring their stories to life, developing deeper understanding of storytelling methods.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 1: Making Small Moments Big</b></p> <p>This writing unit teaches students to craft meaningful personal narratives by focusing on brief, everyday experiences that carry important meaning. Students learn that small moment stories are focused by time but can reveal significant insights about their lives and experiences.</p> <p>Teachers use mentor texts and demonstration writing to help students understand the narrative genre and writing process. Students develop independence in organizing their writing through planning, drafting, and revising, building skills they will use throughout their writing development.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 2: Becoming Experts</b></p> <p>This reading unit focuses on building deep knowledge through nonfiction texts. Students engage with high-quality complex texts across multiple formats including books, text sets, and videos.</p> <p>The unit encourages students to use their natural curiosity and passion for learning to build classroom community. Students share their expertise with partners and classmates, learning that questions drive the inquiry process. They practice determining what information is important, summarizing text sections, and growing their content and academic vocabulary.</p> <p>Through this unit, students discover that studying topics in depth during reading instruction supports their overall academic vocabulary, content understanding, and reading comprehension across subjects.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 2: Chapter Books: Writing Nonfiction from the Heart</b></p> <p>This writing unit combines students' personal interests with deep research to create engaging nonfiction books. Students choose topics they feel passionate about and use that motivation to conduct thorough research across multiple texts and sources.</p> <p>Students practice flexible use of reading, writing, and thinking strategies as they research topics. Through small-group discussions and collaborative work, they develop vocabulary, language skills, and content knowledge while building confidence in their ability to tackle writing complex texts.</p>

## Quarter 3

### Reading Unit 3: Tackling Longer Words and Longer Books

This reading unit focuses on developing students' word knowledge and vocabulary skills while strengthening their ability to tackle longer, more complex texts. Students develop strategies for breaking words into syllables and improve their narrative comprehension skills including orienting to texts, envisioning scenes, predicting outcomes, understanding story elements, and retelling stories. They also learn to determine themes and compare story elements across different texts.

Students also begin developing skills in writing about their reading, learning to express their thoughts and understanding about the books they encounter. This combination of word knowledge, comprehension skills, and written response helps students grow as confident, capable readers.

### Reading Unit 4: Stepping Into the World of Story

In this unit, students will develop the habits of intentional and strategic readers. Rather than focusing on memorizing reading strategies, the emphasis is on helping students think deeply and purposefully as they read. Through ongoing practice, students begin to internalize this thinking, which supports comprehension and builds knowledge—an essential trait of strong readers.

A central focus of the unit is building content knowledge and genre awareness. As students read a range of shared texts, they will explore the characteristics of specific genres, including fantasy and fairy tales.

### Writing Unit 3:

In this unit, students will learn to express their thoughts and preferences clearly through opinion writing. They will write for different purposes, including sharing what excites them, responding to books, and recommending favorite titles to others.

At the start of the unit, students write about topics that amaze or interest them, learning how to state an opinion and support it with reasons and examples. As they build confidence, they will begin forming opinions about books they've read. Students will write letters to authors and illustrators, sharing their thoughts and asking questions, and later write letters and book awards to recommend titles to other readers.

## Quarter 4

### Reading Unit 5: Growing Knowledge Together

In this unit, students will build scientific knowledge and reading skills as they explore the world of insects. Students will learn key characteristics of insects. They will also be introduced to important body parts—like ocelli (simple eyes), antennae, and mouthparts—and understand how these help insects survive.

In addition to building content knowledge, students will strengthen their nonfiction reading and research skills. They will learn how to read across a set of texts, select starting texts to introduce a topic, focus on important vocabulary, and use nonfiction text features (like headings, diagrams, glossaries, and indexes) to gather and organize information. Note-taking strategies will also be taught to help students retain and use what they learn.

### Writing Unit 4: Writing Research-Based Nonfiction

In this unit, students will learn how to write engaging nonfiction texts based on topics they know well or feel strongly about. They will be taught how to choose meaningful topics, organize their ideas clearly, and communicate their knowledge in a way that informs and interests readers.

Students will learn how to:

- Choose and refine topics based on personal expertise or deep interest
- Organize information into a clear and logical sequence
- Use nonfiction techniques to explain and teach others
- Stay curious and open to learning throughout the writing process

By filtering research through their own unique perspectives, students create writing that reflects both their voice and their knowledge. This unit deepens their understanding of informational writing and strengthens their skills as researchers, thinkers, and communicators.

## MATHEMATICS

Second Grade mathematicians will deepen their number sense, fact fluency, and problem-solving skills. They will expand upon their addition and subtraction strategies, learn place value into the hundreds, and solve more complex story problems.

Students will also explore measurement and learn how to measure length using different units, how to tell and write time to the nearest 5 minutes, and how to represent and interpret data on graphs and tables. Second graders will also extend their understanding of geometric shapes and their properties, and learn how to compare and contrast shapes according to their attributes.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partitioning Shapes into Equal Parts</li> <li>Making and Using Equal Groups</li> <li>What is 100?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composing and Decomposing Numbers</li> <li>Using Patterns in Place Value</li> <li>Thinking on a Number Line</li> <li>Rulers and Clocks Are Number Lines</li> <li>Using Units to Estimate</li> </ul>

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partitioning Shapes into Equal Parts</li> <li>Making and Using Equal Groups</li> <li>What is 100?</li> <li>Composing and Decomposing Numbers</li> <li>Using Patterns in Place Value</li> <li>Thinking on a Number Line</li> <li>Rulers and Clocks Are Number Lines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using Units to Estimate</li> <li>Using Data to Visualize and Wonder About Our World</li> <li>Project Based Unit: Big Ideas</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

In the Units of Inquiry, Second Graders will explore big questions about the physical and social world around them. Students will investigate questions in relation to social studies concepts such as government, citizenship, human needs and wants, and personal responsibility. They will also explore science units such as the structure and properties of matter, ecosystems, biological diversity, and earth's systems. Finally, students will learn how to plan and conduct scientific experiments. The Units of Inquiry will be guided by student questions and will integrate with informational research and writing skills.

<b>Quarter 1</b> <b>Who We Are</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b> <b>Where We Are in Place and Time</b>
<p>Explore how cultures connect people and shape self-identity through shared stories and traditions. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories about past events, people, and places.</li> <li>• Conflict and cooperation.</li> <li>• Rights and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Characteristics of good citizens.</li> <li>• The impact of family and social organizations on our lives.</li> </ul>	<p>Investigate the ways in which living and non-living things adapt throughout the process of change. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographic information using maps, graphs, tables, and diagrams.</li> <li>• Natural landforms and bodies of water.</li> <li>• How wind and water change the shape of the land.</li> <li>• Water as a solid, liquid, or gas.</li> <li>• Past, present and future people, events, and places.</li> </ul>

<b>Quarter 3</b> <b>How We Express Ourselves</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b> <b>How the World Works</b>
<p>Examine multiple ways to express cultural identities and beliefs. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Folk heroes, stories, and songs.</li> <li>• Different types of institutions and organizations that people belong to.</li> <li>• Comparing and contrasting different cultures.</li> <li>• Personal identities.</li> <li>• Environmental resources, shelter, and transportation.</li> </ul>	<p>Study how human intervention can influence the natural world. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do people make choices about how to satisfy wants and needs and how goods and services are exchanged?</li> <li>• Properties of different materials.</li> <li>• Pollinating plants and photosynthesis.</li> <li>• Analyze data obtained from testing different materials to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.</li> <li>• Plant and animal habitats.</li> </ul>





**THE VILLAGE SCHOOL**

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**GRADE 3**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Third-grade readers and writers will continue to hone their expanding literacy skills through a balanced program of reading, writing, and word study instruction. In Third Grade, students will learn to read with expression and voice through independent, small group, teacher reading conferences, and whole class reading experiences. Students will deepen their reading comprehension skills and strategies by making logical predictions, connections, and inferences.

Third graders will explore a variety of genres including history, social studies, and science texts. They will learn to express ideas through writing in multiple ways. They will write organized stories, expressive poems, non-fiction books, and persuasive articles. They will learn writing techniques such as dialogue and description of actions, thoughts, and feelings. Students will experience the writing process as they, plan, draft, and edit their writing. They will also learn how to write simple, compound, and complex sentences with correct punctuation, and how to expand on their sentences using descriptive verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. Students will also receive regular handwriting cursive instruction. Finally, students will explore letter sounds and spelling patterns through weekly word sorts, games, and assessments. They will learn vowel digraphs, prefixes, suffixes, and more. In each quarter, Third Graders will learn skills as outlined below:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><b>Reading Unit 1: Reading Series Fiction</b></p> <p>In this unit, students will focus on reading books from a series, which supports both independence and deeper comprehension. As they progress through the unit, students will continue reading across a series, discussing patterns, and noticing connections among the books.</p> <p>This unit also builds essential fiction reading skills. Students will learn to form ideas about characters, settings, and themes, while also practicing important strategies like summarizing, asking and answering questions, and identifying story connections.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 1: The Art of Information Writing</b></p> <p>This unit teaches students a particular template for strong information writing. You'll see that we are teaching students to structure their writing into categories of information. More specifically, those categories are chapters. There is usually a logical sequence informing the organization of the chapters, and each chapter addresses one main subtopic. The chapters, too, contain chunks of information, and again there is a logic to how most chapters are organized.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 2: Reading Nonfiction Text Sets: Plants and Their Adaptations</b></p> <p>The unit has three main goals. The first goal is to support students in deepening their nonfiction research skills equipping them with the skills they need to research any nonfiction topic well. The second goal is for student to learn a tremendous amount of information about plants and plant adaptations as well as different plant subtopics. A third goal is for students to strengthen their foundational reading skills particularly around vocabulary and reading with fluency.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 2: Changing the World</b></p> <p>In this unit, students will write structured argument essays in which they make a claim and develop that claim with reasons, supported by evidence that aligns to those reasons. This unit aims to help students not only write argument texts but also realize that they are changemakers, channeling their passions and ideas into writing that aims to better the world. Students will begin to write in more sophisticated ways in the genre of argument writing.</p>

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><b>Reading Unit 3: The Elements of Story</b>  <b>Reading Unit 4: Animal Research Clubs</b></p> <p><i>The above reading units are being updated and will be added as soon as they are completed in October.</i></p> <p><b>Writing Unit 3: Structuring Episodes: Writing Series Fiction</b>  This unit is designed to help students enhance their narrative writing skills. They will begin by writing personal narratives based on moments that matter to them, bringing those stories to life through storytelling and dialogue. They'll self-assess and set goals, before developing fictional characters who face troubles, writing realistic-fiction stories. Then, students will embrace the revision process, making purposeful revisions and edits using story structure and mentor texts as guides. At the end of the unit, students will turn one of their revised stories into a series, learning from mentor texts to draft new books with greater independence and agency.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 5: Mystery Reading</b>  This unit is designed to strengthen students' reading comprehension by focusing on key strategies such as inferring, understanding plot structure, and developing vocabulary. Students are explicitly taught how to make inferences using background knowledge and verbal reasoning. They also explore how stories are structured to help them summarize more effectively. Vocabulary development is a major focus, especially around character traits and emotions, with students learning to use high-utility and descriptive words to express their understanding of texts.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 4: An Introduction to Literary Essays</b>  This unit is designed to develop students' skills in writing literary essays that are centered around a claim and supported by text evidence. Students will begin by exploring characters' feelings and traits through digital texts and write essays using a replicable structured process of collecting, rehearsing, drafting, and revising. They will then analyze character changes in picture books, focusing on chronological essay structures and incorporating evidence from illustrations. At the end of the unit, students will write literary essays about biographies, identifying and supporting character traits with evidence from text and illustrations, and learning to incorporate quotes effectively.</p>

## MATHEMATICS

Third Grade mathematicians will solidify their number sense, fact fluency and problem-solving skills naturally through exploring 8 Big Ideas throughout the year. They will review addition and subtraction strategies for multi-digit operations, and represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division. Students will extend their knowledge of place value to solve complex word problems. They will also develop an understanding of fractions as numbers. Students will also solve problems involving estimation and measurement, and learn to represent and interpret data. Third Graders will recognize perimeter, learn concepts of area, and relate it to multiplication and division. They will also reason with shapes and their attributes. In each quarter, Third Graders will learn skills as outlined below:

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solving Problems with Data</li> <li>Thinking Around Shapes</li> <li>Thinking in Equal Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tiling to Understand Area</li> <li>Seeing Multiplication as Area</li> <li>Understanding half</li> <li>Seeing Fractions as Parts and Wholes</li> <li>Being Flexible with Numbers</li> <li>Project Based Unit: Big Ideas</li> </ul>

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solving Problems with Data</li> <li>Thinking Around Shapes</li> <li>Thinking in Equal Groups</li> <li>Tiling to Understand Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeing Multiplication as Area</li> <li>Understanding half</li> <li>Seeing Fractions as Parts and Wholes</li> <li>Being Flexible with Numbers</li> <li>Project Based Unit: Big Ideas</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

In the Units of Inquiry, Third Graders will explore big questions about the physical and social world around them. Students will investigate questions in relation to social studies concepts such as government, citizenship, human needs and wants, and personal responsibility. They will also explore science units such as the structure and properties of matter, ecosystems, biological evolution, and earth's systems. They will also learn how to plan and conduct scientific experiments. The Units of Inquiry will be guided by student questions and will integrate with informational research and writing skills.

<b>Quarter 1</b> <b>Who Are We</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b> <b>Where We Are In Place And Time</b>
<p>Third Graders will explore how belonging to groups shapes cultural identity and influences diverse perspectives. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural characteristics of different regions and people.</li> <li>• Norms, values, beliefs.</li> <li>• Cultural diversity</li> <li>• Various forms of institutions and how they influence us.</li> <li>• How ethnicity and culture influence our daily lives</li> <li>• Personal identity.</li> <li>• The difference between acceptance and tolerance</li> </ul>	<p>Third Graders will investigate how communities grow and develop in different ways to meet their changing needs. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of maps and globes</li> <li>• Human populations and migration</li> <li>• Transportation and communication</li> <li>• Needs and wants</li> <li>• Goods and services</li> <li>• Biological evolution</li> <li>• Variations in species</li> <li>• Habitats and organisms</li> <li>• Organisms and their environments</li> </ul>

<b>Quarter 3</b> <b>How We Express Ourselves</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b> <b>How The World Works</b>
<p>Examine ways in which stories provide an understanding of the history and traditions of different cultures. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perspectives of people in different times and places.</li> <li>• Primary and secondary sources.</li> <li>• Changes in society.</li> <li>• Effects of force on the motion of an object.</li> <li>• Electric or magnetic interactions between two objects.</li> <li>• Simple design problem using magnets.</li> </ul>	<p>Study how people create new technological innovations to solve problems. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How tools and techniques make certain tasks easier.</li> <li>• Positive and negative effects of tools and techniques.</li> <li>• Earth's systems and weather conditions.</li> <li>• Climates in regions of the world.</li> <li>• Rights, roles and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Conflict resolution strategies.</li> <li>• Folktales, legends, songs in various cultures.</li> </ul>



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**GRADE 4**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Fourth Grade readers and writers will continue to extend their literacy skills through a balanced program of reading, writing, and word study instruction. In Fourth Grade, students will learn to read with accuracy, expression and voice through independent, small group, teacher reading conferences, and whole class reading experiences. Students will solidify their reading comprehension skills and strategies by making meaningful connections, logical inferences and detailed summaries. Fourth graders will explore a variety of genres including realistic fiction, memoirs, historical fiction, social studies, and science texts.

They will also learn to express their ideas through writing in multiple ways, such as descriptive stories, expressive poems, research papers, and persuasive letters. They will learn writing techniques like dialogue, description of actions, transitional words and sensory details. Students will experience the writing process as they, plan, draft, and edit their narrative, informational, and opinion writing. They will also learn how to write simple, compound, and complex sentences with correct grammar and punctuation, and how to expand on their sentences using descriptive adverbs, prepositions and vocabulary. Students will also receive regular handwriting cursive instruction.

Finally, Fourth Grade students will deepen their word knowledge by exploring spelling patterns and Greek and Latin roots through weekly word sorts, games, and assessments.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<p><b>Reading Unit 1: Close Reading of Fiction: Character and Theme</b></p> <p>In this unit, students will learn to read fiction more deeply by focusing on how authors create characters and develop themes. They will analyze texts closely to understand character choices and identify key themes supported by text evidence. The unit draws on the <i>notice and note</i> signposts to help students recognize significant moments in stories and grow thoughtful interpretations of characters and ideas.</p> <p>Students will also build strong discussion and listening skills. They will be taught how to participate in meaningful conversations about texts using structures like think-pair-share and chalk talks. These strategies allow students to reflect before speaking and to build on each other's thinking.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 1: Spinning True Stories into Gold</b></p> <p>This unit serves three purposes: to launch the fourth-grade writing workshop, to introduce students to the art of keeping writers' notebooks, and to reinforce and extend students' understanding of the essentials of narrative writing. Across the unit, each student will consider ways to give traits to the characters in their stories, to structure narratives that follow a story arc, and set the reader up to learn about the motivations, troubles, and changes that the characters experience.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 2: Digging Into Nonfiction: Rocks and Volcanoes</b></p> <p>This unit has three major goals. The first goal is support students in deepening their nonfiction research skills, equipping them with the skills they need to research any nonfiction topic well. The second goal is for students to learn a tremendous amount about the processes that shape the Earth, especially weathering, erosion, and glaciers. And the third goal is to support students in understanding how to read complex text well.</p> <p><b>Writing Unit 2: Boxes and Bullets: Writing Essays and Arguments</b></p> <p>This unit is designed to help students develop their essay writing skills through a structured approach. They start by exploring ideas and issues from their own experiences and reading to generate meaningful content for their essays. They write to learn, capturing ideas and thoughts in notebooks. Students write personal essays, organizing their thoughts into a clear essay structure, with an introduction, a conclusion, mini stories and lists to support their ideas. Finally, students transition to writing argument essays that call for action on issues they care about, incorporating research skills to gather and evaluate evidence and then create persuasive arguments.</p>

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<p><b>Reading Unit 3: Drama Ready Reading: Bringing Characters to Life</b></p> <p><b>Reading Unit 4: Historical Fiction Reading</b></p> <p><i>The above reading units are being updated and will be added as soon as they are completed in October.</i></p> <p><b>Writing Unit 3: Literary Essay: Writing About Fiction</b></p> <p>This unit serves four purposes. First, students will be reminded to carry forward all they have learned to do in argument writing so far: to state a clear claim or thesis, to craft a solid organizational structure, to support their claim with both reasons and evidence, to use transitional words or phrases for clarity and cohesiveness, and to provide a conclusion that relates to the stated claim. Next, they will progress to writing about more complex, interpretative ideas and learn to write in ways that address the theme of a story and that interpret and analyze the ways words, phrases, and ideas are used in a text. After developing a complex, interpretative thesis, writers are asked not only to support that claim, but to do so in a way that logically groups ideas to support their purpose. Finally, students learn to write comparative essays, comparing and contrasting interpretations across multiple texts.</p>	<p><b>Reading Unit 5: Biography Reading</b></p> <p><i>The above reading unit is being updated and will be added as soon as it is completed in January.</i></p> <p><b>Writing Unit 4: Discipline-Based Writing</b></p> <p>This unit of study is designed to help students write in the disciplines of history and of science. The unit aims to deepen students’ skills with both independent and collaborative research, and to help them write compelling nonfiction. This work will build confidence and expertise in conducting source-based research, from previewing and choosing sources, to note-taking, to drafting. Also, students will engage deeply with the world around them—its history, its peoples, its creatures, its natural resources. They’ll learn to pose questions, to think about systems, to seek out varying opinions, and to carefully consider the implications of what they learn.</p>



# MATHEMATICS

Fourth Grade mathematicians will build a mathematical mindset and explore 9 Big Ideas throughout the year. Their explorations will solidify their number operations, fact fluency, and problem-solving skills, and extend their algebraic thinking. They will further strengthen their number sense by exploring the relationship between factors and multiples. They will learn to fluently add and subtract multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm, and multiply multi-digit numbers using place value, order of operations, and the distributive property.

Fourth Graders will illustrate and explain their calculations using math models such as equations, rectangular arrays, and area models. Students will extend their knowledge of place value to solve complex story problems. They will also deepen their understanding of fractions by comparing and ordering fractions, finding equivalent fractions, and calculating fractions. Students will also solve problems involving estimation and measurement, and learn to represent and interpret data using decimal notations. In geometry, Fourth Graders will recognize and measure angles, apply area and perimeter formulas, and classify different types of lines, angles, and shapes. They will also learn different units of measurement and learn to create a line plot to display a data set of measurements. The math explorations throughout the year will provide students with an experience-rich environment that will challenge them as they discover the connections between the Big Ideas.

Quarter 1	Quarter 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore ways to estimate.</li> <li>• Solve multi-step number stories involving addition and subtraction strategies.</li> <li>• Apply the U.S. traditional algorithm of addition and subtraction.</li> <li>• Use place value and order of operations to problem solve.</li> <li>• Draw and identify various lines and angles.</li> <li>• Develop a formula for finding the perimeter of a rectangle Convert between yards, feet, and inches.</li> <li>• Convert between yards, feet and inches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put fractions in order and find equivalent fractions.</li> <li>• Use various math models to explain fraction equivalence.</li> <li>• Explore decimals in measurement.</li> <li>• Convert from centimeters to millimeters, and liters to milliliters.</li> <li>• Explore the metric system.</li> <li>• Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.</li> </ul>
Quarter 3	Quarter 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solve multistep multiplication problems.</li> <li>• Add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.</li> <li>• Record data on a line plot and analyze results.</li> <li>• Study angle measures using the degree as a unit.</li> <li>• Draw and identify lines and angles.</li> <li>• Apply partial quotients to divide whole numbers with remainders.</li> <li>• Multiply fractions by whole numbers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply division strategies to solve measurement problems.</li> <li>• Convert between fractions and decimals.</li> <li>• Record data on a line plot.</li> <li>• Calculate the area of rectangles using fractions and mixed numbers.</li> <li>• Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements.</li> <li>• Classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.</li> </ul>

## UNITS OF INQUIRY

In the Units of Inquiry, Fourth Graders will explore big questions about the physical and social world around them. Students will investigate questions in relation to the social studies concepts such as geography, culture, society, identity, and connections. They will also explore science units such as energy, waves and their applications, molecules to organisms, Earth's systems, and Earth and human activity. They will also learn how to plan and conduct scientific experiments. The Units of Inquiry will be guided by student questions and will integrate with informational research and writing skills.

<b>Quarter 1</b> <b>Who We Are</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b> <b>Where We Are in Place and Time</b>
<p>Explore how systems create opportunities for people to access their right to basic human needs and wants. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implications of human needs and wants.</li> <li>• How political institutions meet needs and wants in a society.</li> <li>• Ways in which people meet their needs and wants through the production of goods and services.</li> <li>• Rights, roles, and responsibilities in relation to broader society.</li> <li>• Use and identify primary and secondary sources to examine past and present.</li> </ul>	<p>Investigate the ways in which exploration and discoveries impact people, culture, and environment. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of maps and globes.</li> <li>• Geographic resources and tools to gain information about the earth.</li> <li>• Ways that Earth's physical and human-made features have changed over time.</li> <li>• Human populations and migration.</li> <li>• Effects of weather and erosion.</li> <li>• Plant and animal internal and external structures.</li> </ul>
<b>Quarter 3</b> <b>How We Express Ourselves</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b> <b>How the World Works</b>
<p>Examine how different cultures can have varying perspectives that influence people. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs and values</li> <li>• How sociological circumstances influence an individual's worldview.</li> <li>• Describe changes in society.</li> <li>• Identifying cause and effect relationships.</li> <li>• Examine cultural diffusion.</li> </ul>	<p>Study how how societies create new technologies that impact the natural world in multiple ways, in order to meet growing demands for energy. Using inquiry, students will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific tools and techniques.</li> <li>• Renewable and nonrenewable resources.</li> <li>• Energy and fuels from natural resources.</li> <li>• Effects of human activity on the environment.</li> <li>• Sound, light, heat and electrical currents as energy.</li> <li>• Changes in energy when objects collide.</li> </ul>



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13077 Westella Drive  
Houston, Texas 77077  
281-496-7900

[www.thevillageschool.com](http://www.thevillageschool.com)