

# **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MCFARLAND**

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

### **Fourth Grade**

**2025 - 2026**

**(Last updated May 2025)**

This overview is designed to provide information to parents about what is taught in the School District of McFarland. It does not list everything students are taught or all things which students experience. Instead, for each content area, it highlights some state standards and major skills or units that students are taught. For a more in-depth overview, please contact your child's classroom teacher(s).

*The McFarland School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, religion, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity, English language proficiency, age, military status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability in any of its student programs and activities.*

**READING**  
**Units of Study**

Students will:

- Read with accuracy and fluency (see Word Study section)
- Comprehend at grade level
  - Narrative:
    - Summarize portions of the text including characters, big events and/or problem/solution
    - Describe the setting and events using details and evidence from the text
  - Informational:
    - Identify a main topic or central idea and key details in an informational text
    - Discuss the structure of an informational text (sequence, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution)
  - Explain how text features (e.g. pictures, captions, graphs) contribute to a text
- Demonstrate deep understanding and analysis of text
  - Learn about the character:
    - Describe a character (traits, motivations &/or feelings) using specific details from text
    - Predict what the main character will do, say, and think (and how the character will react to things) based on earlier parts of the text
    - Notice how a character changes across the story and what causes the character to change.
  - Makes logical predictions and conclusions based on text
  - Determine the theme or central ideas and identify supports from within the text
  - Discuss points of view (e.g. who is telling the story, how might the reader's point of view or perspective be differ from that of the author, narrator or characters across two texts)
- Select and read good fit books independently with adequate stamina
- Engage in meaningful conversation about text

**WORD STUDY & VOCABULARY**  
**95 Phonics Core**

Students will:

- Read with accuracy
  - Apply current phonics learning in reading and writing
    - Read multiple syllable words by blending sounds
    - Apply common reading and writing patterns - short and long vowels, vowel teams, syllables, morphology (prefixes, suffixes and roots)
- Read with fluency
  - Pause at punctuation
  - Read with expression
- Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases in grade-level reading and content using context clues (using sentences around word), and meaningful word parts.

**WRITING**  
**Units of Study**

Students will:

- Engage in writing process (rehearses, drafts, revises, edits, publishes) with a variety of text types (narrative/story, opinion, informational)
- Use effective writing structures (lead, transitions, ending, organization)
  - Narrative: Beginning, middle, end; Use transitions to signal order
  - Informational/Opinion: Intro, facts/details/reason, conclusion; Use transitions to make connections between ideas
- Continue to develop writing skills
  - Narrative: Use dialogue, description and pacing of actions
  - Informational/Opinion: intro, facts/details/reason, conclusion; Use facts, definitions, details to develop and support writing
- Use appropriate language conventions in writing
  - Capitalization
  - Punctuation (end punctuation, apostrophes, quotation marks)
  - Complete simple and compound sentences with conjunctions (e.g. and, but, or)
  - Commas and quotations marks for quotations
- Write independently with adequate stamina

**MATH**

**Bridges & Number Corner**

Students will:

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems with strategies based on place value.
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence, ordering and construction.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare them.
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit
- Understand concepts of angles and measure angles

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Topics:

- What is Social Studies
- Geography
- Early People
- European Influence
- First Nations
- Immigration
- Economy
- Government
- Social Justice

Students will:

- Study different groups of humans and their stories.
- Construct and read a variety of maps with natural and political borders.
- Understand how technology affects how people live over time.
- Investigate European influence on the state of Wisconsin over time
- Understand the effect of historical events on the culture and population of Native Nations today.
- Understand why people move and the effects that has on peoples' lives.
- Understand the economic impact of key Wisconsin industries.
- Understand how our government functions and the importance of citizenship.
- Understand that their self image and identity are important.

**SCIENCE**

Topics:

- The Design Process
- Energizing everything
- The Human Machine
- The Birth of Rocks
- Waves of Sound
- Plant and Animal Adaptations

Students will:

- Investigate and engage in the scientific process
- Investigate how energy is stored and transferred.
- Construct devices that convert energy from one form to another.
- Investigate structures and functions of the human body.
- Investigate features of the Earth's surface and their changes over time.
- Investigate sound waves.