



Dear Parents,

Your child will be participating in the following English Language Arts units of study this quarter:



Tales of the Heart

Literature Settings: Weather or Not



Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will use specific details in a text to make inferences. They will describe characters based on their thoughts, words, actions, decisions, physical attributes and interactions with others. When reading informational text, they will use specific details to help them determine the main idea and summarize a text. Students will rely on context clues, background knowledge and knowledge of Greek and Latin affixes and roots to help them determine the meaning of words and phrases while they read.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will learn to use syllabication patterns to break apart two syllable words and use knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes to help them decode words. They will reread text orally to practice appropriate phrasing and reading with expression.

Writing

Students will focus on producing writing that is clear, well organized, and appropriate to their specific audience. They will participate in short research projects; taking notes, gathering information from print and technology, and categorizing information. Students will strengthen their writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing their work.

Listening and Speaking

Students will discuss grade-level topics and texts. They will ask and answer questions to contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others. They will use technology to make audio recordings of stories and poems and add drawings to explain their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Students will identify situations that call for formal English (giving a speech) and those that call for informal speech (talking to friends on the playground).

Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Students will use pronouns such as *who*, *whose*, *whom*, *which*, *that* and adverbs such as *where*, *when*, and *why*. They will form and use progressive verb tenses such as *I was walking*, *I am walking*, and *I will be walking*. Students will recognize and correct run on sentences, use correct capitalization and spell grade-appropriate words correctly, using references as needed.

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Fourth graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript and cursive on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. They will begin using keyboarding skills for a variety of class work. Students will consistently use the home keys and type words and sentences without looking at the keyboard. They will learn to use Spell Check and Thesaurus.