

**Dear Parents,**

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

**Literature Settings: Weather or Not****Animals are Characters, Too:
Characters who Gallop, Bark, and Squeak****Reading Literature and Informational Text**

Students will determine the theme of a text and write summaries. They will refer to the casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, and stage directions when writing or speaking about a poem or drama. They will compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated. They will also compare and contrast similar themes when reading stories from different cultures. Students will make connections between written, visual, and oral versions of a text.

Reading Foundational Skills (Word Knowledge and Fluency)

Students will learn to use syllable patterns to break apart multi-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 write to tell a story and 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. They will draw evidence from texts to support their research. Students will strengthen their writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing their work.

Listening and Speaking

Students will prepare for discussions by reading required material. They will create, ask, and answer questions to contribute to discussions and to explain their own ideas and understanding. Students will paraphrase information that is presented in class. They will report on a topic in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and details to support main ideas or themes. Students will use visual and audio recordings in presentations. They will continue to 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 explain the function of verbs, adverbs, and pronouns and use them correctly. They will know when to use adjectives and conjunctions while forming complex sentences. They will use commas in addresses and use quotation marks in dialogue. Students will use correct capitalization and spell grade-appropriate words correctly, using references as needed. In addition, students will learn and use grade-appropriate conversational and academic words and phrases.

Handwriting & Keyboarding

Fourth graders are expected to maintain legible manuscript and cursive on lined paper with proper proportion, size and spacing. They will continue 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 practice using Spell Check and Thesaurus.