

**Dear Parents,**

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

**America in Conflict
Stories of the Earth and Sky****Reading Literature and Informational Text**

Students will determine the main idea of a text in order to summarize the text. They will describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story. Students will use historical texts to explain events including information about what happened and why. They will be able to describe the overall structure of a text. By the end of the quarter, they will compare and contrast stories that use different points of view and compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic.

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 accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Writing

Students will write to state an opinion on a topic, use words and phrases to link ideas such as *for instance*, *in order to*, and *in addition*, and provide a concluding statement related to the opinion presented. They will participate in research projects and use evidence from text to support their research. Students will continue to strengthen their writing by planning, revising, and editing their work.

Listening and Speaking

Students will participate in classroom conversations on grade-level texts and topics. They will take leadership roles in discussions such as Discussion Director, Clarifier, Recorder, and Reporter. They will summarize portions of a text read aloud. 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 use prepositional phrases (groups of words that show location or relation) and will order adjectives correctly when using more than one adjective in a sentence. They will use quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text. They will produce complete sentences and choose punctuation for effect while using correct capitalization and spelling grade-appropriate words correctly. Students will use 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 continue using keyboarding skills for a variety of class work. By the end of the year, they should be able to type at least one page in a single setting.