



Dear Parents,

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



Stories of the Earth and Sky Literary Heroes



Reading Literature and Informational Text

Students will summarize texts as well as determine the theme of stories, poems and dramas. They will learn about structural elements of poetry (verse, rhythm and meter) and those for drama (casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, and stage directions). Students will make connections between a book they read, and a movie or stage presentation of the same story. Comparing and contrasting books with similar themes, topics, and events continues to be a focus this quarter. When reading informational text, students will practice interpreting visual information presented in charts, graphs, time line, animations and interactive elements on a web page. They will explain how this visual information helps them understand the 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 accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

Writing

Students will write to state an opinion on a topic. They will include details that support that opinion and use linking words and phrases such as *for instance*, *in order to*, and *in addition*. They will strengthen their writing by planning, revising, and editing their work. Students will conduct short research projects and use technology to produce and publish writing.

Listening and Speaking

Students will participate in classroom conversations on grade-level texts and topics. They will practice reporting on a topic, telling a story or recounting an experience. Students will use technology to make audio recordings of stories and poems and add drawings to explain their ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

Language (Conventions of Standard English and Vocabulary)

Students will use relative pronouns such as *who*, *whose* and *whom*, relative adjectives such as *where*, *when* and *why*, and use the correct form of frequently confused words, such as *to*, *too*, and *two* or *there*, *their*, and *they're*. They will use a comma before a coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, yet) in a two part sentence. Using correct capitalization and spelling grade-appropriate words correctly continues to be a focus.

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. This quarter they will learn to use menu-driven commands to format margins and paragraphs.