



**BURLINGTON**  
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Parent Curriculum Guide

### Grade 4

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

The Burlington Area School District, in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and other Federal and State regulations, hereby declares that it is committed to the principle of equal education and employment opportunity and, accordingly, does not discriminate as to sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Any inquiries or complaints alleging non-compliance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 or other Federal and State civil rights or nondiscrimination regulations shall be referred to the Title IX Coordinator of the Burlington Area School District.



# BURLINGTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"A community of learners committed to continuous improvement through a culture of dialogue and reflection"*

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Burlington, WI 53105

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

This booklet contains a brief list of the skills and topics your student will be studying this school year. Parents have asked for information about what is taught at each grade level and teachers want to improve communication with parents about what is happening in their classroom.

Keep this guide as a resource throughout the year. Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to volunteer some of your expertise about a specific topic that is taught during the year. Talk to your child about the units of study to reinforce the concepts.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or about your child's learning please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

*Connie Zinnen*

Connie Zinnen  
Assistant Superintendent  
Instructional Services

## **GRADE 4**

### **READING/LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **Attitudes and Habits**

Reads outside of school day at least 20 minutes five times per week  
Reads and appreciates fantasy, folktales, authors, mysteries and biographies  
Responds in a variety of written and oral ways to reading material

#### **Vocabulary and Phonics**

Uses language context, base and compound words, prefixes and suffixes to determine meaning

Uses word relationships - synonyms, antonyms and homonyms

Develops and uses new vocabulary for reading, speaking, and writing

Uses Try It Slips, Priority Word list, dictionaries, etc.)

#### **Comprehension**

Marks up the text (using highlighters or Post-it® notes) to aide understanding

Makes predictions using facts, verifies or changes predictions as new information is added

Retells and discusses reading material

Summarizes narrative (fiction) text using characters, setting, problems, major events and resolution

Summarizes expository (nonfiction) text by identifying the topic, main idea, and relevant supporting details

Compares and contrasts selections, understands sequence of event, and draws conclusions

Uses appropriate rate of reading

- ✓ skims to get overview
- ✓ scans for specific information
- ✓ rereads to aide understanding
- ✓ adjusts rate to match level of text difficulty

Thinks and reads to distinguish between fact and opinion, fact and fiction, and to determine writer's point of view

Uses journaling and "think marks" to prepare for discussion about material read

Asks questions of self during reading

Sustains self during an extended silent reading time

#### **Study Skills**

Uses glossary and dictionary to understand entry words and guide words

Uses parts of a book (table of contents, copyright, etc.)

Uses an encyclopedia (electronic and text)

Uses maps, diagrams, charts, tables, time lines, and illustrations

Uses library resources to locate information

Takes notes to answer questions about a research topic

Writes a report using factual information

Uses strategies to activate prior knowledge (i.e. K-W-L)

Uses strategies to gain meaning from expository (nonfiction) text (i.e. Think-Aloud, K-W-L)

Makes specific preparations to take test

Follows oral and written directions

Uses an assignment notebook to keep organized and up-to-date

Studies material outside of school to prepare for tests

#### **Listening**

Enjoys stories and poems

Obtains information

Follows directions

Evaluates information

### **Speaking**

Speaks in front of group

Communicates information in organized manner – sequenced detail

Responds to stories heard or read

Participates in group discussions

Retells and discusses text

Participates in dramatizations, choral readings, Reader's Theater

## **WRITING**

### **Mechanics of Writing**

Uses Priority Words (1-150) and other spelling words correctly in writing

Writes three indented paragraphs related to a topic that are organized, are consistent, appropriate to topic, purpose, and audience

Uses a variety of sentence structures, display subject-verb agreement

Uses capitalization appropriately for proper nouns, sentences, and titles

Uses punctuation appropriately including periods, commas, apostrophes, and quotation marks

Uses proofreading to correct errors

### **Written Forms**

Personal narrative

Tales and stories

Poems

Research writing

Biography

### **Writing Process Stages**

#### **Planning**

Identifies audience and purpose

Brainstorms ideas

Determines format

#### **Rough Draft**

Chooses appropriate format

Selects appropriate details

Organizes details into appropriate form

Focuses and develops topic

Checks whether there is a variety of sentence lengths

Critiques peer drafts

#### **Revising**

Rereads

Revises sentences

Makes the subject/verb agree and pronoun/reference agree

Checks whether purpose has been met

Checks for consistency of verb, tense, point of view

Checks repeated or plain words

Checks for use of transition words

Checks whether voice comes through in piece of writing

Organizes thoughts in coherent paragraphs

#### **Editing**

Checks for correct capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling

Interacts with a peer to check for completion and accuracy

Edits to see if the writing is ready for others to read

### **Publishing Activities**

Publishes in a final form

Shares writing

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Mathematical Process**

Communicates mathematical thinking, both orally and in writing, by using numbers, words or pictures

Analyzes and solves simple and more complex story problems

### **Number Operations and Relationships**

Understands and applies strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Solves one and two step problems

Rounds and estimates whole numbers

Reads, writes and orders fractions and decimals

Reads, writes, and identifies place value of numbers to millions

### **Geometry**

Identifies, describes, and compares two and three dimensional figures

### **Measurement**

Counts, compares and makes change to \$10.00 using a collection of coins and dollar bills

Understands and solves area

Understands and solves perimeter

Determines and compares elapsed time

Tells time to the minute

### **Statistics and Probability**

Reads, uses and draws conclusions from the data in graphs and tables

### **Algebraic Relationships**

Applies patterns to determine relationships

Recognizes equalities and inequalities using  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$

Solves equations with variables

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Understands the major features of Wisconsin maps, world maps, globes, graphics, diagrams, and photographs

Understands the geographic features of Wisconsin and the forces which shaped them

Understands the Native American culture of Wisconsin

Shows an understanding of European exploration in Wisconsin

Understands differences that exist in environment and lifestyles in various geographic settings in Wisconsin

Understands the major industries in Wisconsin - from past to present

Understands government at the local, state and national level in our country

## **SCIENCE**

### **Earth Science**

#### **Rock Cycle**

Understands how rocks tell us about the past, present, and future formation of Earth

Identifies igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks

Describes the rock cycle

## **Earth's Science**

Understands how the Earth's surface is shaped and reshaped by way of weathering, erosion, and deposition  
Explores volcanoes and earthquakes

## **Water Cycle and Weather**

Explores hurricanes and tornadoes  
Explores how the Earth's water affects weather

## **Earth's Cycle's**

Explores how daily and seasonal cycles tells us about our Earth, Moon, and Sun  
Understands the rotation and revolution of the Earth  
Explores day and night, seasons, moon phases, and eclipses  
Identifies stars and constellations

## **Life Science**

### **Plants and Animals**

Explores how grouping makes it easier for scientists to show relationships and identify organisms  
Identifies some characteristics scientists use to classify: number of cells and cell structure, habitats, and nutrient/energy acquisition  
Identifies plant structure that enables plants to make their own food and reproduce

### **Ecosystems**

Identifies how living and non-living things interact with each other and with their environment  
Describes energy transfer in ecosystems  
Recognizes constant changes in a balanced system  
Recognizes changes cancel each other out

### **Human Body**

Identifies how organ systems provide cells of the human body with nutrients  
Studies the following systems: skeletal, muscular, and nervous system  
Becomes familiar with the respiratory, circulatory, and digestive systems  
Explains how the body can defend itself against disease-causing organisms

## **Physical Science**

### **Matter**

Identifies the states of matter  
Identifies qualitative and quantitative properties of matter  
Explores density, buoyancy, physical and chemical changes

### **Heat**

Understands thermal heat  
Compares heat vs. temperature  
Identifies types of heat transfer  
Describes convection

### **Electricity and Magnetism**

Studies electrical charges, static electricity, electric currents and circuits  
Studies magnetic fields, electromagnets, generators

### **Sound and Light**

Identifies how light and sound travels  
Identifies attributes of sound and light waves  
Explores production of sound waves, electromagnetic spectrum, reflection, refraction, absorption  
Explores optical tools

**Force and Motion**

Describes ways in which the motion of an object can be described, changed, and measured

Identifies forces of friction, gravity, kinetic, and potential energy

**Simple Machines**

Describes how simple machines make work easier

Identifies simple machines

Identifies complex machines

**MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY**

- ✓ Identifies and defines basic computer technology
- ✓ Demonstrates proper care and correct use of media equipment
- ✓ Saves and backs up files on a computer hard drive, storage medium, or file server
- ✓ Identifies common types of computer software
- ✓ Demonstrates how to open and run a software programs
- ✓ Creates, saves and retrieves electronic files
- ✓ Incorporates graphics and pictures in a document
- ✓ Identifies and defines basic word processing terminology
- ✓ Produces a document using a word processing program (Microsoft Word)
- ✓ Edits a word processing document to produce a finished product