

## A MESSAGE TO OUR FAMILIES

Welcome to the Phoenix Elementary School District! Our schools are committed to providing a high-quality educational program for your children by setting high expectations for their performance in the classroom. We believe that strong ties to our families and community help your child become a responsible, life-long learner.

This brochure is a **summary** of grade level learning expectations for Language Arts, English Language Learners, Mathematics and Science. By the end of this school year, mastery of these skills will prepare your child for success next school year.

The learning expectations listed here **summarize** the Phoenix Elementary District curriculum. These expectations reflect the goals of the school district to ensure a quality curriculum for students and accountability to the community.

The Phoenix Elementary School District curriculum is guided by the Arizona's Academic Standards. Follow this link to the Arizona Department of Education website for additional information about the academic standards:  
[www.azed.gov/standards-practices/](http://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/).

The District's 2025 Strategic Plan provides clear expectations for our student's academic success. Goals include:

- We will ensure every student we serve is achieving academic success.
- We will engage every student in a rigorous, relevant, research-based learning environment led by well-trained staff.
- We will ensure student enrollment is at capacity in effective and attractive Signature and Neighborhood schools accessible to all.
- Follow this link for additional information about the 2025 Strategic Plan: [phxschools.org/district/about/strategic-plan/](http://phxschools.org/district/about/strategic-plan/).

Please contact your child's teacher at any time, and be sure to attend conferences with your child's teacher in October, January and March.

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

## Learning Expectations



## WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR?



English Language Arts



English Language Learners



Mathematics



Science

Inspiring Every Child to Achieve

**PHOENIX** #1  
Elementary School District



Curriculum and Instruction

2019-2020



## English Language Arts

### Reading, Writing, Language, Listening and Speaking - Includes Fiction and Non-Fiction

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says and when drawing inferences
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details
- Summarize text
- Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, and problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text
- Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose referring to the structural elements of poems
- Compare the treatment of similar themes and topics and patterns of events in stories
- Compare a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably
- Write summaries or opinions about topics supported with by organized facts, details, and examples
- Conduct short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Paraphrase and respond to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Relate words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking



## English Language Learners

### Oral Language

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Express orally his or her own thinking and ideas
- Identify and apply conventions of Standard English in his or her communications
- Listen actively to the ideas of others in order to acquire new knowledge

### Reading

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Demonstrate understanding of print concepts of the English language
- Identify and manipulate the sounds of the English language and decode words, using knowledge of phonics, syllabication, and word parts
- Acquire English language vocabulary and use it in relevant contexts
- Analyze text for expression, enjoyment, and response to other related content areas
- Read with fluency and accuracy

### English Grammar, Structure and Usage

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Use the following parts of speech: nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and interjections
- Use the following grammar skills: phrase and clause construction, sentence construction, questions, agreement, questions and phonology link
- Speak and write in both simple and complex sentences using regular and irregular subjects and verbs while incorporating a variety of sentence structures that reflect their understanding of tense, subject-verb agreement, and parts of speech
- Express themselves in colloquial and written forms that reflect their growing familiarity with different writing genres (expository, narrative, and research) as well as nuances in social interactions (asking directions, making invitations, offering suggestions) and by asking and responding to instructional questions, presenting narratives, and preparing and giving oral reports

## Writing

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Express his or her thinking and ideas in a variety of writing genres
- Identify and apply conventions of Standard English in her or her communications
- Use the steps of the writing process as a writing piece moves toward completion
- Integrate elements of effective writing to develop engaging and focused text
- Demonstrate research skills by using a variety of reference materials to complete a variety of writing tasks

NOTE: Instruction will vary based on student's language level: Pre-Emergent, Emergent, Basic or Intermediate.



## Mathematics

### Operations and Algebraic Thinking (OA)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns

### Number and Operations in Base Ten (NBT)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic

### Number and Operations—Fractions (NF)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions

## Measurement and Data (MD)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit
- Represent and interpret data
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles

## Geometry (G)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles

## Mathematical Practices (MP)

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
- Model with mathematics
- Use appropriate tools strategically
- Attend to precision
- Look for and make use of structure
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning



## Science

### Fourth Grade Science Learning Modules

- Magnetism and Electricity
- Water Planet
- Sun, Moon and Stars

### Science as Inquiry

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Use the scientific process
- Create a model to illustrate a system
- Organize and present scientific data
- Communicate information about observations and ideas
- Write about scientific information in a report, log, or journal

### History and Nature of Science

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Describe major scientific contributions
- Identify milestones in science

## Personal and Social Perspectives in Science and Technology

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Be able to explain how scientific knowledge is a part of many careers
- Describe how science has helped change technology
- Describe how technology has helped change science

## Life Science

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Understand the characteristics of living things
- Describe ways various resources are used to meet the needs of a population
- Differentiate renewable resources from nonrenewable resources
- Describe ways in which resources can be conserved

## Physical Science

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Understand forms of energy and properties of magnetism
- Demonstrate that electricity flowing in circuits can produce light, heat, sound, and magnetic effects
- Construct series and parallel electrical circuits
- State the cause and effect relationships between magnets and circuitry

## Earth and Space Science

*By the end of the school year, students should:*

- Identify the known planets of the solar system
- Describe the characteristics of the known planets in the solar system
- Describe various objects in the sky (e.g., asteroids, comets, stars, meteors)
- Explain the apparent motion of the Sun and stars
- Describe efforts to explore space
- Describe how the moon's appearance changes during a four-week lunar cycle
- Distinguish between revolution and rotation.
- Describe the role of gravity as a force between celestial objects

## The Important Role of Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

Let your child know that you value education and believe he or she can succeed in school. Find out your school's homework policy, establish routines, and provide a quiet, well-lit place to study. Remember that homework is your child's responsibility; help by listening carefully and asking questions rather than providing answers. Here are some ideas on how to help your child get the most out of his or her school experience:

- Read children's literature aloud, or set aside time for your child to read independently and discuss the story with you.
- Encourage your child to record ideas, observations, and stories in a writer's journal.
- Help your child seek information through reading. Some examples of activities are looking at maps to determine directions, following a recipe, or using dictionaries and encyclopedias to find definitions and facts.
- Encourage personal connections to books by asking your child which characters, places, situations from a story seem like those from his or her own life.
- Share everyday writing activities, such as letters, invitations, and thank-you notes.
- Visit the library and check-out books together. Discuss your own book choices as well as those of your child.
- Have your child write a letter to a favorite author, telling what he or she likes about a book. Mail the letter in care of the publisher; addresses can be found inside the book.
- Look over and discuss assignments that come home from school.
- Display your child's work around the house.
- Involve your child in scheduling his or her own time, such as homework, television viewing, playing, or reading.
- Play board and card games that involve taking turns and following rules.
- Have your child participate in activities involving money, such as shopping, managing an allowance, and rolling coins.