

PORTAGE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Benchmarks for Grade 4

The benchmarks in fourth grade are designed to inform parents and the public about the learning skills that are identified for students in the Portage School District. The benchmarks are aligned with the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards. Students are expected to be proficient in these identified skills at the end of the school year. Although each child's development varies, these are the skills the school district has identified as essential, in order to be adequately prepared for advancement to the next grade level.

The school district and teachers strive to individualize the curriculum as much as possible to meet the needs of each individual learner. Each student's age, abilities, personality, interest and learning style are considered when planning meaningful experiences. The needs of students are met in the classroom or in conjunction with other programs designed for remediation or enrichment.

The reading program has highly qualified and well trained teachers who understand linguistic diversity in their students. There is access to a wide variety of relevant, leveled and challenging reading materials. Explicit instruction is given in comprehension strategies. Vocabulary instruction enables students to independently understand word meanings. High quality professional development that supports research-based reading instruction for all students is on-going each year. Other instructional methods, such as "6+1 Trait Writing" and "Step Up to Writing" are used as instructional strategies to increase language performance.

The math program engages learners with a hands-on, spiraled curriculum that allows them to be exposed to math concepts with a number of repetitions, ensuring a deeper understanding of the material students are asked to master.