



HAMPSTEAD HILL ACADEMY
School Year 2018-2019
Class Syllabus

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4th Grade Language/Social Studies/Science
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Goals:

Language: The goal of fourth grade language is to teach the basic writing skills and develop the necessary vocabulary in order for students to understand the writing process and for students to produce writing that covers various writing topics. Examples of such topics include, but are not limited to, claims and arguments, clear directions, descriptions, and problem solving. Students will focus heavily on identifying various parts of speech and writing clear sentences. The goal for fourth grade language is for all students to complete the assigned Reasoning and Writing Program level. Students will work through each lesson in order to reach mastery. Handwriting will also be heavily enforced for classwork and homework.

Social Studies: The goal for fourth grade Social Studies is to introduce students to a curriculum that captures the unique history of Maryland and the United States. Through this curriculum, we encourage and support students to come to the realization that they have power via their political actions. We hope that the daily lessons will help students to realize that their histories, experiences and voices are meaningful and can help shape policy.

Science: The goal in fourth grade Science is to challenge students to think like Scientists. Therefore, they are introduced to the Scientific Method and they will use this method of observation and problem solving while covering Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The goal of Life Science is to introduce students to living things that inhabit our earth. The goal of Earth Science is for students to understand Earth and its resources. Students will be able to make the connection that the living organisms covered in Life Science use Earth and all of its resources. Earth Science will then be followed by Physical Science, with a focus on matter and energy. Students will be able to make the connection that Earth is made up of matter. Our class will be able to use their skilled inquiry to brainstorm ways that Science can help to better our community, our state, and our world.

Ongoing Communication:

It is important to me to establish ongoing communication and work in a partnership with all of my students' families. In order to do this, the following classroom specific forms of communication will occur throughout the year in order to keep all families updated about their child's progress:

1. **Newsletters:** Newsletters will be sent home with your child every other Monday. The newsletter will include an update on content being covered in class, advanced notice of any upcoming classroom assignments or events, and student shout-outs. Once the science fair begins (date TBD), newsletters will be sent home every Monday.
2. **Grade Notices:** Grade notices will be sent home with your child within a week of taking all language, science and social studies tests. Please sign and return these notices to acknowledge that you are aware of your child's score. In addition, please indicate on the notice if you would like me to follow up with you.

Course Overview:

Language, Reasoning and Writing, Level D Tracks

- Parts of Speech and Sentence Clarity Analysis
- Clarity
- Sentence Types
- Inaccurate and Unclear Directions
- Misleading and Inaccurate Claims
- Arguments
- Passage Writing

Language classwork consists of work assigned in the textbook. Students will complete all classwork on looseleaf paper or a worksheet. Students will receive a classwork grade for each lesson. Participation and homework will also be factored into students' language grade. Language tests are administered every ten lessons, about every two to three weeks.

Maryland Social Studies:

- **Unit 1: Geography of the United States and Maryland**

In this unit, students will use geography skills to understand the human and physical characteristics of both Maryland and the United States. They will investigate the ways that Americans, both past and present, have modified their environment and the consequences of those modifications. Students will apply the use of map elements to interpret and construct maps. Students will identify natural/physical features and human-made features of the United States and compare different places and regions.

- **Unit 2: Roots of the American People: Prehistory-1400**

In this unit, students learn about the various cultures of early societies in the Americas, with an emphasis on Native Americans indigenous to the Maryland area. In that study, students compare the different societies and learn they used the environment to meet their needs. They also learn about the impact of European contact on their societies.

- **Unit 3: Exploration: 1400-1586**

In this unit, students examine European Exploration of North America and compare the origin, destination, and goals of explorers from the various nations. In addition, they evaluate the interactions of Europeans and Native Americans and are able to discuss its impact. Students will also learn how geographic characteristics influenced settlement patterns in North America.

- **Unit 4: Colonies Take Root: 1587-1700**

- In this unit, students learn about the establishment of early colonial settlements. Students will learn about the European political, economic, and religious motives for moving to the New World. In addition, students will examine the challenges that these early settlers faced.

Social studies will consist of classwork, projects, quizzes and tests. Participation will also be factored into students' classwork grade. Tests will be administered at the end of each unit. In addition, students will take a cumulative test at the end of all four social studies units.

Maryland Science: Next Generation Science Standards/Maryland State Science Standards

- Energy module (Physical Science)
- Soils, Rocks and Landforms module (Earth Science)
- Environments module (Life science)

Science will consist of classwork, projects, quizzes and tests. Participation will be factored into the classwork grade. Quizzes will be administered approximately every two weeks. Quiz assessments will be focused on key vocabulary and ideas. Tests will be administered after completing each unit.

Classroom Rules:

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe

Student Behavior and Consequences:

In addition to the classroom rules, students will be expected to follow the Hampstead Hill Academy School wide expectations. These expectations are in place to ensure that all students are in a safe environment at all times.

Grading Policy:**Language/Social Studies/Science Grading Policy**

- 60% Tests/Quizzes
- 30% Classwork/Labs
- 10% Homework/Projects

Homework: Homework for Language will be given Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and sometimes Thursdays. A weekly score of 4 points will be given if the student turns in all homework completed. Thursday homework will be used for any additional Language review or Social Studies/Science review.

Extra-Credit Work: Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

Make-up/Missing Work:

Make-up work can be completed upon the student's return. Students will have as many days to complete the missing work as days they were absent. Students are responsible for getting their make-up work from the absent work folders.

Coach Class: Coach Class will be offered on Wednesdays from 7:15 -7:45.

Late Policy: Points will be deducted for each day after an assignment is due. If there is a concern that a habitual practice of lateness is developing, a parent conference will be requested.

Projects: There is one major grade level project that students are expected to complete. The *HHA Science Fair Project* will be due in the spring of this year. Expectations for the project will be released eight to ten weeks prior to the project due date. Additionally, timeline benchmarks are in place to ensure that students are not completing the project days before it is due. Additional projects may be added throughout the school year.

Portfolios: Portfolios will be used to demonstrate deep content knowledge of a particular Language or Social Studies/Science concept. Portfolio pieces will be ongoing throughout the year.

Field Trips:

Locations and Dates TBD.

Teacher Bio: Ms. Costello is happy to start her second year at Hampstead Hill Academy. She is looking forward to building partnerships with families in order to ensure that every student is given the opportunity for success in Language, Social Studies, and Science. She is excited for a great year!