

4/5 Year A
2022-2023 Curriculum Overview
(alternates yearly)

**Social
Studies**

The 4/5's explore the theme: *How did California become what it is today?*

This year's focus is on the history of California. During this year, the 4/5's explore topics including:

- The geography of California and how it affects human and animal populations
- Indigenous people
- The arrival of Spanish explorers, exploiters, missionaries, and settlers in California
- The discovery of gold and statehood
- "Manifest Destiny" and how it affected white settlement of the west;
- Waves of immigration to California during the 19th and 20th centuries: Transcontinental Railroad, and WWII; Japanese Internment and Angel Island

Possible Field Trips:

- Oakland Museum of California
- The Golden Gate Bridge
- Angel Island

Reading

In Reading, the 4/5's explore:

- Up the Ladder Reading: Fiction
- Up the Ladder Reading: NonFiction
- Interpretation Book Clubs
- Argument and Advocacy: Researching Debatable Issues

Word Study in the 4/5's includes:

Initial assessment (*Words Their Way*) for spelling pattern knowledge and needs;

- Focus on general academic, domain-specific vocabulary words;
- Spelling lists generated from 100 high frequency word list, *Words Their Way*, and individual word lists from each student's writing/editing;
- Practice using dictionaries, glossaries, and thesauruses;
- Mini-lessons and practice with topics such as antonyms, synonyms, homophones, parts of speech, Greek and Latin roots and suffixes, verb tense, and writing conventions.

Writing

The 4/5's continue practicing the writing process by collecting ideas, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing their work. Units of Study include:

- Up the Ladder Writing: Narrative
- Up the Ladder Writing: Information
- Literary Essay: Opening Texts and Seeing More
- The Research Based Argument Essay

Curriculum resources from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project explore narrative writing, information writing, literary essays, and opinion/argument writing. Later in the year, fifth graders incorporate speech writing as a genre through speeches presented during Graduation Week in June. The 4/5's do a number of writing projects to practice their skills and build their knowledge through investigations and research as part of their work in social studies and science. Cursive writing and keyboarding skills are developed through lessons and ongoing practice.

Math

Math in the 4/5's is taught by grade level using the *Bridges in Mathematics*, 2nd edition.

4th grade units:

- Multiplicative Thinking
- Multi-Digit Multiplication and Early Division
- Fractions and Decimals
- Addition, Subtraction, and Measurement
- Geometry and Measurement
- Multiplication and Division, Data, and Fractions
- Patterns and Problems

5th grade units:

- Expressions, Equations, and Volume
- Adding and Subtracting Fractions
- Place Value and Decimals
- Multiplying and Dividing Whole Numbers and Decimals
- Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
- Graphing, Geometry, and Volume

Science

The 4/5's will explore the following science units of study:

- Soils, Rocks, and Landforms (FOSS)
- Ecosystems (Westminster Woods)
- Energy and Electromagnetism (FOSS)

Possible field trips:

- Lindsay Wildlife Museum
- Tilden Park
- 4/5 weekly overnight (Walker Creek)
- Lawrence Hall of Science

Social- Emotional Learning

Aurora uses the *Open Circle Social Emotional Program*, an evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) curriculum developed at the Stone Center at Wellesley College. This innovative program proactively develops children's skills for recognizing and managing emotions, empathy, positive relationships, and problem solving. Open Circle helps schools build communities where students feel safe, cared for, and engaged in learning.

Elements of Open Circle:

- Managing Ourselves
- Strengthening Relationships
- How to Sort Problems
- Problem Solving

Other elements of the 4/5 SEL curriculum include:

- Morning Meeting (*Responsive Classroom*)
- Conflict Resolution (*Talk It Out*)
- All-school *Community Creators*
- Partner Pals
- Ally Week
- Identity
- Antiracism and anti-bias work