



Curriculum Guide

The Meridian School's mission is at the forefront of the planning and development of the school's educational program. In promoting a balance of mind and heart, Meridian's four core curricular subjects—math, science, social studies, and literacy and language arts— and six specialist subjects make up the foundation of the program. Each content area focuses on the acquisition of a set of given outcomes at each grade level in order to provide a scaffolded sequence of skills that result in fifth grade students who are well-prepared for middle school and beyond. Students balance their time between individual and collaborative work, reflecting on progress, and taking actions to further their academic skills.

Meridian has carefully considered and chosen the standards included in the curriculum. These standards reflect the skills and competencies our educators have deemed characteristic of students who are well-rounded critical thinkers and problem-solvers. These standards include Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, National Core Arts Standards, International Society for Technology Education standards, and others. Although Meridian's curriculum is aligned to these standards, teachers have the flexibility to approach the curriculum using techniques they feel most effectively fulfill Meridian's mission and philosophy.

Meridian's curriculum guide is an evolving document; as demands for skills and competencies change, so does Meridian's curriculum. Meridian's adaptations to these changes reflect the school's commitment to helping students emerge as contemplative, contributing, and empathetic members of their local and global communities.

For a more detailed version of our current curriculum map, please visit <https://meridianschool-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade responds to students' increasing sense of intellectual curiosity and budding social independence. Fourth graders have made the critical transition from learning to read to reading to learn, so assigned texts weave together social studies, science, and math. Learning experiences require students to practice personal integrity, classroom responsibility, and community participation. Character education highlights independence and conflict resolution. Meridian's character education framework supports respectful interactions, the development of trust, and leads students to be contributing members of the community. Regular experience with good citizenship comes from serving as role models for first grade "buddy classes" as well as engagement in service learning and community service projects.

	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
<p><i>Literacy & Language Arts</i></p> <p><i>Reading</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routines, expectations, atmosphere • Library (book baggies, book bins at all times) • Readers Notebook: Three Subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Independent Reading ◦ Partnership and Book Clubs ◦ Read Aloud • Reading Logs • Just-Right-Books • Read Aloud Note Taking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Features of Non-Fiction • Determining Importance • Paraphrasing • Skimming • Summarizing • Note Taking and Highlighting • Chunking • Retelling • Comparing and Contrasting • Identifying an author's angle on a subject 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-evaluate • Monitor reading • Thinking critically • Interpretation of ideas • Formulating and developing ideas • Gathering evidences to support thinking • Working with a partner to discuss ideas • Listening to deepen conversation
<p><i>Writing</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of materials • Introduce Writer's Notebooks • Generate list of topics students can write • Write entries • Sustain writing • Quick publish to evaluate writing skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather ideas for writing personal essay • Focus on one event rather than several • Rely on the five senses to make writing • Interesting • Format of essay • Essay has an introduction, a middle, and an end • Create an outline • Write topic sentences • The writing process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show exemplars of persuasive writing • Generate ideas or subjects to support persuasion • Get reasons to back up claim • Create an outline • Order paragraphs in an essay • Use a planner to order information • Cite examples to support evidence • Engage readers with a compelling introduction
<p><i>Mathematics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows multiplication facts through 10×10, and can easily solve related division facts through $100 \div 10$ • Understands multiplication as a way to compare quantities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reads, writes, and compares multi-digit numbers • Rounds multi-digit numbers to any place • Adds and subtracts multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithms, as well as other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writes equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity to represent multi-step story problems • Uses mental math, estimation, or rounding to determine whether or not

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solves story problems that involve multiplicative comparisons • Solve multi-step story problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division • Understands factors and multiples • Understands that a prime number has only 2 factors, while a composite number has more than 2 factors • Understands that in any multi-digit number each digit represents 10 times what it represents in the place to its right • Multiplies 2- and 3- digit numbers by 1-digit number using strategies based on place value and properties of operations; uses equations or labeled sketches to explain strategies • Divides 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and the relationship between multiplication and division; uses equations or labeled sketches to explain strategies 	<p>efficient methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses a visual model to explain why one fraction is equivalent to another. Recognizes and generates equivalent fractions • Compares two fractions with different numerators and different denominators, and explains why one fraction must be greater than or less than another fraction • Writes an equation to show a fraction as the sum of other fractions. • Adds and subtracts fractions and mixed numbers with like denominators • Solves story problems that involve adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators • Writes fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 in decimal notation • Compares decimal numbers with digits to the hundredths place, and explains why one decimal number must be greater than or less than another decimal number • Knows the relative sizes of measurement units within one system of units including metric length, metric mass, customary weight, metric volume, and time • Expresses measurements in a larger unit in terms of a smaller unit • Uses addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to solve story problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, masses of objects, and money • Uses the formulas for area and perimeter of a rectangle to solve problems • Uses a protractor to measure and sketch angles • Draws points, lines, segments, rays, angles, and perpendicular and parallel lines. Identifies these in two-dimensional figures • Classifies two-dimensional shapes 	<p>answers to multi-step story problems are reasonable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes patterns in sequences of numbers or shapes. Generates a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule • Multiplies 2-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and properties of operation; uses equations or labeled sketches to explain strategies • Multiplies a fraction by a whole number • Solves story problems that involve multiplying a fraction by a whole number • Converts a fraction with 10 in the denominator to a fraction with 100 in the denominator and uses the strategy to add tenths and hundredths • Makes a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit. Uses the information on a line plot to solve problems that involve adding and subtracting fractions.
--	--	---	---

<p><i>Social Studies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize and paraphrase informational text in writing Sequence main ideas Interpret information presented visually (charts, graphs, timelines) Understand and explain key events in Washington state history Compare and contrast the past and the present in Washington state Read informational text Interpret information presented visually (charts, graphs, timelines) Understand and explain key historical events in Oceania Compare and contrast the past and the present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies and draws lines of symmetry Research and paraphrase information from books and online sources Analyze different resources Compare and contrast myths from different areas Compose a research report Describe the process of trade and commerce. Compare and contrast the viewpoints of all the parties involved in commerce - buyers, sellers, producers and consumers. Synthesize historical and current information to produce a project that contrasts viewpoints from all the constituents of trade. Construct a world map showing how trade is a global activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe exploration and colonization of different European countries. Compare and contrast the viewpoints of the European explorers and settlers with the viewpoints and perspectives of the indigenous peoples they encountered. Synthesize information to produce video that supports contrasting viewpoints from the constituents of each historical narrative. Construct a world map showing explorer routes Analyze maps to see the changing political boundaries due to Europe's colonization Define key government terms Describe the roles of citizens and government officials Distinguish between the 3 branches of government Compose an idea for a bill Debate and decide the outcome of Supreme Court case
<p><i>Science</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine and compare the hard-boiled egg model to that of the earth Predict the consequences of plate movement Model the collision of oceanic and continental plates Model what happens when two continental plates collide Construct a model volcano and observe its eruption Compare a model volcano to a real volcano Model the movement of plates as they slide past each other Identify the pattern of the Ring of Fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measure the Amount of Litter Produced in the Classroom and Calculate How Long It Would Take To Fill The Entire Classroom With Trash Explore Ways to Reduce Trash Determine Concentration Levels of Air Pollution Particles From Different Sites At Meridian Park Test the pH of Water Samples Compare the Rate of Growth Among Plants That Have Been Watered With Tap, Acid, and 50%/50% Acid and Tap Mix Examine and Create a Definition of Noise Pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate that air takes up space and has weight Discover that molecules make up air and exert pressure on the surfaces they bump into Compare the rate of descent of different sized parachutes Relate an object's ability to float to its density Construct model wings and observe the effect of moving air on each model Distinguish differences between different types of engines (rockets, jet, propeller)