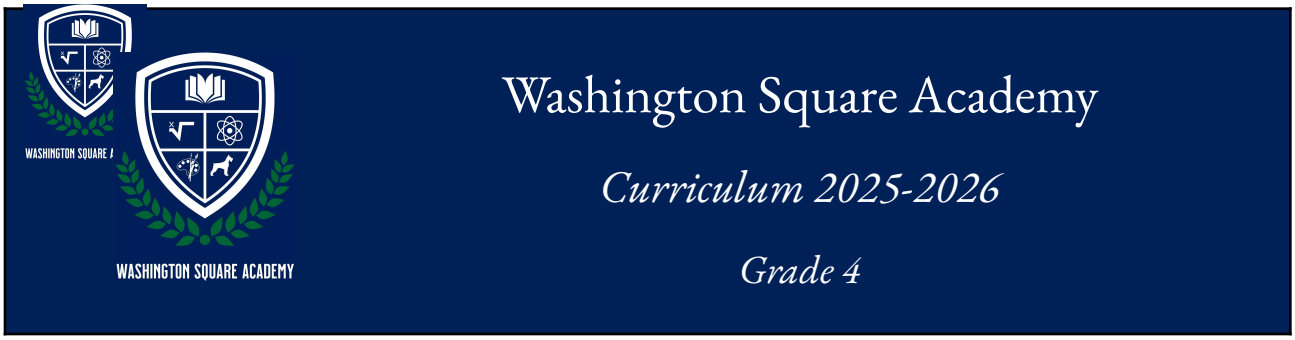

Washington Square Academy

Curriculum 2025-2026

Grade 4

Contents

Washington Square Academy

Curriculum 2025-2026

Grade 4

English

Objectives

Students will read, recognize, and write texts of differing types and purposes; understand literary elements and devices; identify the main idea in a text; make inferences about a text; understand and recognize elements of characterization and setting; understand the meanings of words in context; acquire and apply academic vocabulary; understand and apply the conventions of Standard English.

Theme:

Friendship

Texts & Reference Materials

Literature:

(Note that selections may vary by academic year.)

Novels & Plays:

- *The Fourteenth Goldfish,* Jennifer L. Holm
- *Save Me a Seat*, Sara Weeks and Gita Varadarajan
- Frankenstein vs the Horrendous Goo, Treanor Baring

Short Stories:

- Selections from Zlateh the Goat and Other Stories, Issac Bashevis Singer
- “Amigo Brothers,” Piri Thomas (banned book)

Nonfiction:

- *When Stars Are Scattered*, Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Selected Poems

- "Thank you Ma'am," Langston Hughes
- Sonnet 104, William Shakespeare
- "The Cake of Friendship," Michelle Flores
- "1383," Emily Dickinson
- "Hug o' War," Shel Silverstein
- "You Will Always Be My Friend," Dharvi Shah
- "My Best Friend," Abbie Jenkins
- Selections from The Merry Wives of Windsor, William Shakespeare

Art Appreciation:

- A History of Pictures for Children, David Hockney (Studies of Friendships Among Artists)

Language:

- *Wordly Wise* Vocabulary Study, Levels 4-8
- *The Rooted Mind:* Latin and Greek Roots Challenge
- Teacher-generated materials
- Selections from NoRedInk.com and IXL.com

Content

Literature:

- Quote, paraphrase, and summarize a text.
- Explain what a text states explicitly.
- Make inferences about a text.
- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text.
- Recognize how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic.
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text.
- Compare and contrast stories in the same genre.

- Explain how a series of chapters, scenes, or stanzas fits together to provide the overall structure of a story, drama, or poem.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text; identify and explain the effects of figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- Independently and proficiently read and comprehend literary texts of appropriate complexity representing a variety of genres, cultures, and perspectives.

Language and Writing:

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Write narratives in prose or poem form to develop experiences or events using effective literary techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Conduct short research projects that use several sources to build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on reading and content.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal contrast, addition, and other logical relationships.

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Grade 4

Mathematics

Texts & Reference Materials

- Singapore Intensive Math
- Art of Problem Solving
- Teacher-generated materials

Math 4 Honors:

Number Sense and Operations:

- Understanding and performing operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals
- Interpreting and using parentheses and brackets in numerical expressions
- Understanding and applying simple order of operations
- Finding factors and multiples
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions and decimals

Measurement:

- Converting measurements within the same measurement system (e.g., inches to feet, meters to centimeters)
- Understanding and using formulas to calculate the area and perimeter of rectangles and squares (simple figures)
- Understanding and using formulas to calculate the volume of rectangular prisms

Geometry:

- Classifying two-dimensional shapes based on their properties (e.g., triangles, quadrilaterals)
- Understanding and applying the properties of three-dimensional shapes (e.g., cubes, spheres)
- Understanding and using coordinate grids to represent points and shapes

Data Analysis and Probability:

- Organizing, displaying, and interpreting data using various graphical representations (e.g., bar graphs, line plots)
- Analyzing and interpreting data from graphs and charts
- Understanding and applying basic concepts of probability (e.g., likelihood, outcomes)

Patterns, Relations, and Algebra:

- Identifying and extending patterns and sequences
- Understanding and using variables and expressions to represent relationships
- Solving simple equations and inequalities

Problem-Solving and Reasoning:

- Solving multi-step word problems involving all of the above concepts
- Reasoning mathematically and justifying solutions using mathematical language and procedures
- Applying mathematical concepts to real-world situations

Math 4 Honors Advanced:

Number Sense:

- Mastery of arithmetic operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers
- Understanding and applying the properties of rational numbers
- Estimating and approximating solutions to problems involving operations with rational numbers

Ratios, proportions, and percentages:

- Rates/unit rates and proportional versus non-proportional relationships
- Proportion word problems

Algebraic Expressions:

- Understanding and using variables to represent quantities in real-world contexts
- Writing, simplifying, and evaluating basic algebraic expressions
- Solving one-step and multi-step equations and inequalities
- Understanding and applying the properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions

Geometry:

- Understanding and applying the properties of geometric figures, including angles, polygons, circles, and solids
- Understanding and using formulas to calculate perimeter, area, surface area, and volume of geometric shapes
- Applying geometric concepts to solve problems involving coordinate geometry
- Scale drawings and models
- Similar figures
- Surface area
- Composite figure areas

Data Analysis and Probability:

- Organizing, displaying, and interpreting data using various graphical representations
- Understanding and applying basic concepts of probability, including experimental and theoretical probability
- Analyzing and interpreting relationships in data sets

Problem-Solving and Reasoning:

- Applying mathematical problem-solving strategies to a variety of contexts, including real-world situations
- Reasoning mathematically and justifying solutions using mathematical language and procedures
- Analyzing patterns and making generalizations based on mathematical evidence

Science

WSA's Science Curriculum is informed by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Objectives

Students will acquire foundational knowledge of the composition of the solar system; Earth's geology; states of matter; and the cellular bases for life on Earth. Students will also understand, through theory and practice, how to collect, compile, and analyze data.

Texts & Reference Materials

- Marshall Cavendish Education, *Lower Secondary: Science Matters*
- Teacher-generated materials

Content

Earth & the Solar System:

- Make-up of the solar system: Sun, planets, moons
- Earth as the "Goldilocks Planet": conducive to life (not too hot, not too cold!)
- Lab: Creating a Solar System

Earth's Geological Systems:

- Earth's composition and atmosphere
- Plate tectonics and large-scale system interactions
- Geological ages and the movements of the continents over time

Earth's Systems of Life:

- Life's building-blocks: from molecules to organisms
- Models of cells
- Plant and animal cells: structures and functions; similarities and differences
- Life cycles of cells

- The microbial world: viruses and bacteria (functions and replication)
- Lab: Create an animal/plant cell
- Lab: Microbial Swab: The Invisible World Around Us

Ecology:

- Vertebrates and invertebrates
- Classification of animals
- Water and nitrogen cycles
- Lab: Building a Self-Sustaining Terrarium

Matter and Its Interactions:

- Properties of matter
- States of matter
- Chemical reactions
- Lab: Volcano

Social Studies: The United States

Objectives

Research and Inquiry:

- Students develop research skills by asking questions, gathering information from primary and secondary sources, and evaluating the reliability of sources.

Critical Thinking:

- Students analyze historical events and multiple perspectives to develop critical thinking skills; make reasoned judgments; compare and contrast the treatment of a topic in primary and secondary sources; analyze in detail a series of events as described in a text; cite specific textual evidence to support analysis; summarize points of agreements and disagreement; and demonstrate their ability to reevaluate their thinking after exposure to new evidence and lines of reasoning.

Communication:

- Students respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives; practice communicating their ideas effectively through writing, speaking, and delivering visual presentations.

Reference:

Texts & Reference Materials

Teacher-selected and -generated materials including historical periodicals and primary sources

Overview of U.S. History:

- Exploration and colonization: Students learn about early European exploration and colonization of North America, including the motivations, challenges, and consequences of these events. They study the interactions between Native American tribes and European settlers.
- Colonial America: Students examine the establishment and development of the thirteen English colonies, focusing on topics such as colonial economies, government structures, and daily life.

- American Revolution: Students explore the causes and events leading to the American Revolution, including the French and Indian War, the Stamp Act, the Boston Tea Party, and the Declaration of Independence. They learn about key figures and significant battles of the Revolutionary War.
- Formation of the United States: Students study the creation and ratification of the United States Constitution, including its principles and structure of government. They also learn about the challenges faced by the new nation under the Articles of Confederation and the significance of important documents such as the Bill of Rights.

Civics and Government:

- Principles of Democracy: Students learn about the principles of democracy, including popular sovereignty, rule of law, and individual rights. They examine the role of citizens in a democratic society and the importance of civic participation.
- Branches of Government: Students study the structure and functions of the three branches of the United States government (executive, legislative, and judicial). They learn about the system of checks and balances and the responsibilities of each branch.
- Rights and Responsibilities: Students explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the United States, including voting rights, freedom of speech, and civic duties such as paying taxes and serving on juries

Geography:

- Students learn about the geography of the United States, including its regions, landforms, natural resources, and climate patterns. They study maps and use geographic tools to analyze spatial patterns and understand the relationship between geography and human activities
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Basic Economic Concepts:

- Students learn about fundamental economic concepts such as scarcity, supply and demand, and opportunity cost. They explore how individuals, businesses, and governments make economic choices and allocate resources.

World Language: Introduction to Spanish

Texts & Reference Materials

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: ¡Avancemos! Level 1
Teacher-generated materials

Content

Grammar & Vocabulary:

- Greetings
- Classroom
- Numbers, weekdays, and months
- Colors
- Body parts
- Feelings
- Verbs: Words as they express actions, states, or occurrences; the infinitive forms of verbs and their importance in Spanish
- Adjectives: Words as they modify or describe nouns; agreement in gender and number between adjectives and nouns; comparative and superlative
- Pronouns: Introduction to subject pronouns (yo, tú, él/ella, nosotros/as, vosotros/as, ellos/ellas) and their usage
- Nouns: Words that represent people, places, things, or ideas; the genders (masculine and feminine) and numbers (singular and plural) of nouns
- Commands
- Alphabet, accents, and conjugations

Spanish Culture & Daily Life:

- Spanish holiday traditions
- School and work life
- City and country