



The Transition from Different Grade Levels

**Maple Manor Elementary
Middle School**

Comparison Example of 3rd and 4th grade

3rd grade

- Builds on knowledge learned in K-2
- Strengthening of skills to build a solid background of all content areas
- Lots of support from teachers during independent work time
- Switching from a letter grading scale to a numerical scale

4th grade

- Takes what students learned in K-3 and adds a higher level of skill to concepts taught
- Lots of new material is covered, not much review of previous grades
- Independence during work time is stressed, but teachers offer support when needed
- Number/Letter grading scale

What's different in literacy?

- In K-2 students are learning to read. In 3-5 they are reading to learn using standard based curriculum
- Identify and know meaning of most common prefixes and suffixes
- Find meaning of words and phrases from text (context clues)
- Use root words to find meanings of words
- Describe characters in a story and how their actions contribute to events sequence
- Distinguish own point of view from that of narrator or character

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts supporting a point of view with reasons
- Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas
- Include in writing: text dependent analysis, introduction development, support of ideas, linking words and drawing conclusions
- Conduct research projects and book reports
- Focuses more on comprehension and analyzing text than fluency

Reading Comprehension Strategies

- Story Maps and Diagrams
- Anchor Charts
- Questioning techniques such as: How and Why questions before, during, and after reading.
- Emphasize on skill vocabulary terms in each grade level
- Literacy elements will be focused on as building blocks of a story

Different Types of Genre

- Students will be exposed to multiple genre throughout the year using differentiation of books and text.
- Author's Purpose, Perspective, and Point of view will be focused on using Literature and Informational text.
- Cross- curricular text will also be utilized making connections to self, text, and world.

Reading Tips for Parents

- ❖ Read aloud with your child every day
- ❖ Make trips a way to encourage your child by reading traffic signs, making grocery lists, or shopping a way of integrating reading at home
- ❖ Encourage writing at home such as a daily journal of activities or hobbies your child is interested in during the year
- ❖ Allow your child to choose books they enjoy reading including magazines, picture books, and chapter books.

Reading at Home

Ask your child

- What do you think the story will be about?
- What are we trying to find out? How does the character feel? Why?
- ❖ Make predictions
- ❖ Discuss the plot, and characters actions
- ❖ Reread the story.
- Respond to the story talking about your child's favorite parts.

What's different in math?

Number Sense

3rd grade	4th Grade
Know and understand the place values of hundreds, tens, and ones	Know and Understand the place values of Millions, thousands, hundreds, tens , and ones.
Read and write numbers to 1,000	Read and write numbers to Millions 1,000,000
Compare and Order numbers using $<$, $>$, $=$	Understand the value and how to convert fractions and decimals
Know that 100 is a bundle of 10-tens	Understanding of decimals and the values of Numbers using decimals
Count within 1,000 by 5s, 10s, and 100s	
Understand Multiplication and Division from prior knowledge of Addition and Subtraction	Rounding numbers to nearest 10,100, 1,000, and millions.

Fractions

3rd grade	4th grade
Understand a fraction as the quantity formed by 1 part, when a whole is portioned into equal parts	Explain why a fraction is equivalent by using visual fraction models
Understanding a fraction as a number on the number line.	Compare 2 fractions with the same numerator or same denominator by reasoning about their size. ($<$, $>$, $=$)
Represent a fraction on a number line diagram by defining the interval from 0 to 1 as the whole and portioning it into equal parts.	-Compare two fractions with different numerators & denominators -Recognize and generate simple equivalent fractions and explain why they are equivalent
Explaining and understanding equivalent fractions by comparing and reasoning about size	Decompose a fraction into a sum of fractions with the same denominator in more than way, record each decomposition by equation
Express whole numbers as fractions	Add two fractions with respective denominators 10 and 100

Addition & Subtraction

3rd grade	4th grade
Fluently add and subtract within 1000	Use strategies to add and subtract based on place value and properties
Use strategies to add and subtract based on place value and properties	Use place value understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place
Understand the relationship between addition/subtraction. Inverse Operations	Understanding the addition properties and how they can help solve problems.
Understand the three [properties of Addition	Estimating, you can round to any place value
Understanding Patterns in Addition using regrouping	Estimating Sums and Differences using regrouping
Estimating Sums using Rounding Strategies	Subtracting across Zero's
Reasonableness of estimated sums	Understand key vocabulary words to help solve problems

Measurement

3rd grade	4th grade
Measure lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch.	Know relative sizes of measurement units within one system of units including km, m, cm, kg, g, lb, oz, hour, minute, second.
Measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses of objects using standard units of grams, kilograms, and liters.	Within a single system of measurement, express measurements in a larger unit in terms of a smaller unit.
Add, subtract, multiply, or divide to solve 1-step word problems involving masses or volumes that are given in the same unit.	Use the four operations to solve word problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, mass of objects, and money including problems involving simple fractions or decimals.
Solve real world problems involving addition and Subtraction by representing the problem on a number line.	Represent measurement quantities using diagrams such as number line diagrams that feature a measurement scale
Tell and write time to the nearest minute. -Solve word problems involving adding and subtracting of time intervals in minutes	Make line plots to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit.
Problem solving in Time working backwards	Solve problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions by using information presented in line plots.

Patterns

3rd grade

Identify arithmetic patterns and explain them using the operations

Solve 2 step word problems using the 4 operations. Represent these problems using equations where a letter stands for the unknown value.

4th grade

Solve multistep word problems posed with whole numbers and having whole number answers using the four operations

Generate a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule. Identify apparent features of the pattern that were not explicit in the rule itself

Multiplication & Division

3rd grade	4th grade
Use multiplication and division to solve word problems within 100	Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number
Determine unknowns in multiplication and/or division number sentences	Multiply two two-digit numbers, using strategies based on place value
Apply properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide	Multiply two two-digit numbers, using the properties of operations
Fluently multiply and divide within 100	Illustrate and explain the calculations by using equations, arrays, and models.
Interpret products of whole numbers	Find whole number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors
Interpret whole number quotients	Problem solving using the relationship between multiplication and division
Understand the rules and properties of Multiplication to problem solve	Illustrate and explain calculations using equations, arrays, and area models
Solve two-step word problems using the four operations	

What's different in science and social studies?

- Science: 3rd Grade
 - Science is a formal topic
 - 3rd grade topics of study: Parts of a Plant, Classifying Animals, Living things grow and reproduce, Earth's Crust, Protecting Earth's Resources, Patterns in Earth's Atmosphere, Our Solar System, Cycles and Patterns in space.
- Social Studies: 3rd Grade
 - Social Studies Class is a formal class
 - 3rd grade topics: The importance of communities with respect to culture and diversity. Celebrations and National Holidays, Ethnic Neighborhoods and their contributions to language, foods and traditions. Celebrations and activities based on geography and location. History of Communities and the people who started them.

Typical Day

- 160 mins. of literacy (this includes Reading Writing, English, spelling, and Handwriting)
- 80 mins of math
- 80 minutes of science or social studies
- 30 minute lunch
- 40 minute specials-Art, Music, Gym
- 15 minute homerooms

Supplies they will need

- A notebook for each subject
- pencils
- A pencil pouch with a zipper
- A folder
- Clear backpacks

With the switching of classes, it becomes very difficult to keep organized.

- ❖ Students are provided with agendas in order to write down their homework assignments each day. Parents should check the agenda every night.

Please no binders – they do not fit in the desks.

Questions parents had...

- **Q: How many students can we expect in a particular grade class?**
- A: This year the average class size is about 25 students.

- **Q: How frequently do the students change class and/or teacher?**
- A: This school year each grade level students switched classrooms two or more times during the day. Once they leave homeroom, they do not return till the end of the day. This means they are responsible to carry everything that is needed for all classes. This changes yearly based on the number of sections we have in each grade.

- **Q: What are the expectations of each grade levels student?**
- A: Students are expected to come to school everyday ready to learn. They are responsible for getting their homework copied into their agenda each day, getting their parents to view their agendas each night, and getting their homework to school everyday and on time. In class students are expected to follow the school and class rules. Students will be required to work collaboratively with classmates to complete assignments including some in-class projects. Students are asked to be more independent with each grade by getting their assignments done when asked, being responsible to ask questions when needed, taking home information to their parents weekly, and for taking initiative in their own learning.

- **Q: What can we expect as far as homework?**

- A: Each night you can expect to see homework for your child. Each teacher may assign different assignments for different sections. You can look to see daily your student's homework assignments going on the individual Maple Manor teacher page on the HASD website. Each teacher has a homework page and will list their assignments daily on it.

- **Q: What kind of testing is done throughout the year?**

- A: Each teacher will do their own assessment based on the topic they are covering. They may be written tests or projects. With the grade levels increasing each year the material is harder and does need to be studied at home. We will be using the Renaissance STAR Reading and Math online assessment in order to monitor your child's progress and growth. In April, your child will take the PSSA tests in Reading and in Math. These are very important tests, and we will be preparing for them all year long. These tests consist of multi – step questions that are either multiple choice or written responses. They will need to read passages and respond to what they read.

- **Q: What are the greatest challenges that parents/students face in each grade?**

- A: The biggest challenge for both students and parents is getting use to the pacing of each grade level. There is a lot of material that must be covered during the year, and we can move quickly. Concepts are taught for a specified amount of time and then only reviewed as the year goes on. Another big challenge for parents and students is the grading system. However, the teachers in each grade input grades into Skyward and that allows parents and students to check their grades daily on the computer throughout the year. This helps everyone see what the current grades are and how and where the student may need to focus their attention. Another challenge is the independence. Students in all grades are asked to complete a lot of items independently. The teachers are there supporting the students but also rely on the students to ask questions when they don't understand a concept or problem. Students not doing homework continues to be a struggle for the teachers daily. You need to be checking to see if they are doing their work at home and that it is properly placed back in their backpacks to return to school the next day.

- **Q: How can I help my child be more independent?**

- A: At home as your child is completing their homework, allow them to work for several minutes on their own without any help from you as parents. Once a certain amount of time has passed, check on the students and ask if they understand what they are doing. Always go back and check their work to make sure it has been done correctly. Another way to help is to assist your child in their organizational skills. The easier it is for your child to find their homework, books, pencils, etc, the easier it is for them to succeed in class. In our classrooms we stress the importance of organization and try to work with the students on staying organized but having it reinforced at home is very important.

- **Q: How are students placed in classes?**

- A: At the end of the year each grade level teacher makes tentative classes for the following years grade. Teachers use knowledge of the students in order to guide them through this process. Classes are not finalized until they are posted on the school doors a few days before school starts. Enrollment changes daily.

- **Q: What field trips do each grade level go on?**

- A: Field trips depend on several factors for each grade level. Funding is always a key and having enough resources that year determines where the students will go on a field trip. Grade level teachers along with the PTA and Administration decides where the trip will take place. Please know that the field trip is a privilege, and they must do their homework and behave to go.

What can we do over the summer to prepare?

- Study up on addition and subtraction facts. Students should know these facts fluently.
- Work on subtraction across zeroes ($400-123=$).
- Work on combinations to 10 and 100.
- Work on 10 more and 10 less and 1 more and 1 less of numbers. (visualize a 100s board and how 19 is 10 less than 29 and falls 1 block above the 19)
- Do summer reading programs at the library and/or bookstore.
- Encourage your child to read chapter books.
- Talk to your child about what they are reading.
- Introduce nonfiction books into your child's reading selections.

Extra Help

Imagine Learning Computer Program Link:

https://clever.com/oauth/authorize?channel=clever&client_id=4c63c1cf623dce82caac&confirmed=true&district_id=5d4c494d07a3d000018f1216&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fclever.com%2Fin%2Fauth_callback&response_type=code&state=ae421c5c51d3e23662c21e5ce7963367c35f65f134f5b985bad74d714916b2d1

Scholastic Books <https://clubs.scholastic.com/>
ABCYa <https://www.abcya.com/>

Kahn Academy Computer Link:
<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Contact your child's grade level teacher for additional websites that will help enrich the information or subject matter.

Thank you for coming!

- Please Stay involved with your children.
- If you have any additional questions that you'd like answered, please email us at
- tutkor@hasdk12.org or porambok@hasdk12.org