



Parent Guide
Fourth Grade
Learning
Standards
2008 – 2009



Mission Statement

The Wayne-Westland Community Schools, in cooperation with parents and the community, will educate and prepare all of our students to be knowledgeable, responsible, contributing members of a global society.



Wayne-Westland Community Schools
36745 Marquette
Westland, MI 48185
Phone 734-419-2000
Fax 734-595-2123
Gregory J. Baracy, Ed.D.,
Superintendent

Social Studies

The Wayne-Westland Elementary Social Studies Curriculum provides students with the skills they need to be able to participate effectively as citizens of the U.S. and of a global community.

Students will learn significant social studies concepts within an increasingly complex social environment. They examine fundamental concepts in geography, civics/government, and economics through the lens of Michigan history and the United States.

The purpose of the fourth grade social studies curriculum is to focus primarily on the study of Michigan in the Great Lakes region as it relates to other United States regions.

- **History:** Students will learn about United States geography, economics, and government by studying Michigan History (from statehood to the present). Teachers will use examples from Michigan history to teach geography, civics, and economic concepts.
- **Geography:** Students draw their awareness and knowledge of regions, human systems, and human-environment relationships to understand geography by using examples drawn from the United States.
- **Civics and Government:** Students examine the purposes of government, how our current government works, and the consequences of not having government, rules, or laws.
- **Economics:** Students continue to understand economic ideas related to the "global" marketplace and explore the impact of global competition on the national economy. They begin to learn to think like an "economist" by applying the ideas of price, competition, and incentives. Their knowledge of government taxing and spending continues as they explore why certain goods are not privately owned.
- **Decision Making/Citizen Involvement:** Students deepen their understanding of public issues and the importance of citizen action in a democratic republic. They expand their understanding of how conflicts among core democratic values often lead people to want different resolutions to a public policy question using the context of the United States. Students use their knowledge of how, when, and where to communicate and become more proficient in communicating positions on sophisticated public issues with a reasoned argument.

Science

Science is a way of making sense of our natural world. As workers, we have occupations that increasingly involve science and technology. At the fourth grade level, the emphasis is on a more comprehensive approach to the scientific method. Units will include:

- Process Skills
- Magnetism and Electricity
- Land and Water
- Environments



*Grade Level Content
Expectations
(GLCEs)
have been established
by the
Michigan Department
of Education
for English Language
Arts and Math.
These are described in
the parent guides
available from MDE or
your school office.*

Special Area Classes

Wayne-Westland Community Schools provide instruction in five elective content areas for all elementary students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The five classes are music, visual arts, physical education, media information, and life skills. Each class meets for 50 minutes, (kindergarten for 20 minutes), once a week. The curriculums for each class is based on the state and national standards and benchmarks. Lessons are planned to support the core content areas.

A brief summary of each class is as follows:

- **Music:** experiences include singing, listening, creating rhythms, and learning about musicians. Fifth graders explore sound production on electronic equipment.
- **Visual Arts:** experiences include drawing, painting, designing, and sculpting, as well as working in clay, paper, and fibers, to develop visual, spatial, and manipulative skills.
- **Physical Education:** students are taught basic skills in a variety of sports activities, with much attention to physical fitness.
- **Media Information:** experiences include reading, viewing, listening, and using technology for understanding, enjoyment and to access information.
- **Life Skills:** experiences include units in character education, nutrition/health, career awareness, and problem solving.

