



**4 / 5**  
**2019-2020 Curriculum Overview**  
*(alternates yearly)*

**Social Studies**

The theme of this year is “What is democracy?” and the focus is on the landscape and human history of the United States. During this year, the 4/5s explore topics including:

- The geography of the U.S. and how it affects human populations
- Indigenous people before the arrival of Europeans
- The arrival of European explorers and exploiters
- The arrival of enslaved Africans
- The cultural encounters between indigenous people, Europeans, and Africans; and their cultural legacies
- Life during colonial times
- The Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution
- The history of voting rights in the U.S.

During the year, students also study the locations of all 50 states, and their capitols.

Possible field trips:

- Train trip to Sacramento for a capitol tour

**Reading**

This year, in Reading the 4/5’s explore:

- Fiction: Interpreting Characters
- Non-fiction: Reading the Weather, Reading the World
- Non-fiction: Reading History, The American Revolution
- Fiction: Historical Fiction Book Clubs

Word Study in the 4/5’s includes:

- Initial assessment (*Words Their Way*) for spelling pattern knowledge and needs
- Cursive practice for homework and writing assignments in class
- Development of content-specific vocabulary
- Spelling lists generated from *Words Their Way* word sorts, 100 high frequency word list, and words 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**

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

- Poetry
- Narrative Writing: The Arc of the Story, Writing Realistic Fiction
- Argument: Persuasive Essays
- Information Writing: Bringing History to Life
- Opinion: The Literary Essay, Writing about Fiction

	<p>Curriculum resources from the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project explore narrative writing, information writing, and opinion/argument writing. Later in the year, fifth graders will speeches, which they present at graduation. The 4/5's do a number of writing projects to practice their skills and build knowledge through social studies and science. They learn and practice keyboarding skills throughout the year.</p>	
<p><b>Math</b></p>	<p>Math in the 4/5's is taught by grade level using the <i>Bridges in Mathematics</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.</p>	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 405 954 772"> <p>4<sup>th</sup> grade units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiplicative Thinking</li> <li>• Multi-Digit Multiplication and Early Division</li> <li>• Fractions and Decimals</li> <li>• Addition, Subtraction, and Measurement</li> <li>• Geometry and Measurement</li> <li>• Multiplication and Division, Data, and Fractions</li> <li>• Patterns and Problems</li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="954 405 1539 772"> <p>5<sup>th</sup> grade units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expressions, Equations, and Volume</li> <li>• Adding and Subtracting Fractions</li> <li>• Place Value and Decimals</li> <li>• Multiplying and Dividing Whole Numbers and Decimals</li> <li>• Multiplying and Dividing Fractions</li> <li>• Graphing, Geometry, and Volume</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> grade units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiplicative Thinking</li> <li>• Multi-Digit Multiplication and Early Division</li> <li>• Fractions and Decimals</li> <li>• Addition, Subtraction, and Measurement</li> <li>• Geometry and Measurement</li> <li>• Multiplication and Division, Data, and Fractions</li> <li>• Patterns and Problems</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Science</b></p>	<p>This year, the 4/5s will explore the following units of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Solar System</li> <li>• Puberty Education</li> <li>• Mixtures and Solution (FOSS)</li> <li>• The Solar System</li> <li>• Earth and Sun</li> </ul> <p>As a part of puberty education unit, classes engage discussions on gender and attend a presentation by a panel of LGBTQ adults.</p> <p>Possible field trips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walker Creek</li> <li>• Berkeley Transfer Station</li> <li>• Chabot Space &amp; Science Center</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Social-Emotional Learning</b></p>	<p>Elements of the 4/5 social-emotional curriculum include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Circle</li> <li>• Morning Meeting (<i>Responsive Classroom</i>)</li> <li>• All-school <i>Community Creators</i></li> <li>• Partner Pals</li> <li>• Conflict Resolution (<i>Talk It Out</i>)</li> <li>• Mindfulness</li> <li>• Ally Week</li> <li>• Class Meetings/Student Council</li> </ul>	