



Classroom Information & Syllabus for 4th Grade-Ms. Canales, Bickley, & Chambers

Teacher & Course Info:

Teacher Contact Information	Christine Canales christine.canales@nisd.net dana.bickley@nisd.net rochelle.chambers@nisd.net (210) 397-3800
Conference Period	9:25-10:10
Daily Schedule	7:45-8:00 Morning Meeting 8:00-9:25 Math 9:25-10:10 Specials 10:15-11:35 Reading/Word Study 11:40-12:10 Lunch 12:10-12:30 Recess 12:30-1:30 Handwriting/Grammar/Writing 1:30-2:00 Intervention 2:00-2:45 Science/Social Studies
Course Overview & Content	Our grade level instructional plan may be found at nisd.net/schools/catalogs . In addition, I will communicate information around our learning targets through weekly newsletters, ClassDojo communication, email updates, and classroom announcements. Weekly newsletters will communicate instructional objectives, important dates, upcoming assessments, and classroom events. Fourth grade students participate in instruction aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in Reading Language Arts, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Grading & Progress:

Grading Weights	Fourth grade uses numerical grades. All assignments and assessments are weighted equally. Grades reflect mastery of grade-level TEKS and learning objectives.
Redo/Retake Policy	Students may receive reteach opportunities and chances to make corrections after teacher feedback. Points may be added to assignments or assessments after corrections and demonstration of mastery.
Make-up Work	Missing assignments may initially appear as a zero in HAC. Students may complete missing work within the grading period according to teacher expectations. Students absent from school will be provided reasonable opportunities to complete missed assignments.
Promotion Requirements	• Receive an end-of-year average of 70% or higher in reading, language arts, and mathematics. • Receive a 70% overall grade average when reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are combined. • Demonstrate proficiency of most third grade TEKS in reading, language arts, and mathematics, or be expected to do so early in fourth grade.
Measuring Progress	Student progress is monitored through a comprehensive and ongoing process that combines classroom performance, formal assessments, and continuous observation. Teachers evaluate students daily using assignments, classwork, and quizzes aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), while also incorporating informal strategies such as small group instruction, observations, and quick checks for understanding. Additional information is gained through district screeners, unit assessments, student work samples, projects, and other methods of assessments.

Assessments:

MAP Growth (Fall/Winter/Spring)

Fall Math: August 24-28, 2026
Fall Reading: August 30-September 4, 2026
Winter Math: January 11-15, 2027
Winter Reading: January 19-22, 2027
Spring Math: May 3-7, 2027
Spring Reading: May 10-14, 2027

STAAR Testing

STAAR RLA: April 13, 2027
STAAR MATH: April 20, 2027

TELPAS Testing

Testing is only for students officially designated as Emergent Bilinguals or currently enrolled in our Bilingual /ESL (English as a Second Language) programs. If your child is not in one of these programs, they will not take this assessment and will follow their normal class schedule.
Listening & Speaking: Feb. 23-25
Reading & Writing: March 2-4

Early Childhood Assessments

Not applicable for Fourth Grade

Unit Assessments

Students will take a district unit assessment at the end of each unit of instruction. Additional writing assessments and classroom assessments will be administered throughout the school year.

Student Support:

Intervention

In our classroom, we are committed to the success of every student. If a student needs additional support in a specific skill or concept, they will have access to targeted intervention opportunities such as small-group instruction and computer based interventions. These interventions are designed to close learning gaps and help students build confidence. Fourth-grade students utilize IXL Learning as an intervention resource to reinforce grade-level standards, monitor growth, and address learning gaps.

Enrichment	Enrichment opportunities are built into our curriculum to challenge students through higher-level thinking and deeper exploration of class topics. Our goal is to ensure every student remains engaged and continues to grow at their own individual pace.
Technology Resources	Students may utilize a variety of district-approved digital resources throughout the school year to support instruction, intervention, enrichment, and communication. These resources may include ClassDojo, Schoology, IXL Learning, Reflex Math, ST Math, Sora, EPIC!, and other district-approved instructional programs. Students access many resources through My NISD Portal/ClassLink and Schoology.
Safety and Security	The safety and security of students and staff is a top priority at Helotes Elementary School. All visitors must follow campus visitor procedures. Exterior doors remain secured throughout the school day. Visitors must enter through the designated security entrance. Classroom doors remain locked during instruction. Dismissal changes should be communicated through the school office to ensure student safety.
Communication:	
Communication Method	Communication between home and school is vital for student success. I will communicate through ClassDojo, weekly newsletters, email, phone calls, and parent conferences. Parents are encouraged to check ClassDojo daily. Parents can reach me through ClassDojo message, email, or phone.
Report Cards	Report Cards will be shared four times a year, following the end of each grading period. Parents are encouraged to monitor student progress regularly through HAC.
Parent Conferences	We value the partnership between teachers and parents. Parents are offered the opportunity for at least two in-person conferences. Additional conferences may be scheduled upon parent or teacher request. Please reach out to schedule a time during my conference period or before/after school as available.

