

## **The Public Schools of Brookline GRADE FOUR CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Brookline's Learning Expectations in ELA meet or exceed the standards outlined in the Massachusetts Frameworks. To reach these demanding standards, Brookline educators use the Continuum of Literacy Learning PreK-8 (Heinemann, 2011) as their day-to-day guide when teaching specific behaviors in reading and writing. The description of the successful fourth grade reader and writer below comes primarily from the Continuum.

#### Reading

Students at the end of fourth grade automatically read and understand a full range of genres, including biographies on less well-known subjects, more complex fantasy, and hybrid genres that blend more than one genre in a coherent whole. Students can also identify and discuss the characteristics of these texts. Fourth grade students read chapter books and shorter informational texts, along with special forms such as mysteries, series books, books with sequels, short stories, diaries, and logs. The fiction narratives they read are straightforward, but have both elaborate plots and many complex characters that develop and change over time. As readers, fourth graders understand perspectives different from their own, as well as settings and people far distant in time and space. They can process longer complex sentences containing prepositional phrases, introductory clauses, and lists of nouns, verbs, or adjectives. They can solve new vocabulary words, some defined in the text and others unexplained. Most reading is silent; fluency and phrasing in oral reading are well established. Fourth grade readers are challenged by many longer descriptive words and by content-specific and technical words that require using embedded definitions, background knowledge, and readers' tools, such as glossaries. They can take apart multisyllabic words and use a full range of word-solving skills. The student at the end of fourth grade reads and understands texts in a variety of layouts and consistently searches for information in illustrations and increasingly complex graphics. (PreK-8 Continuum, p. 324)