**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.

Writing

Fourth graders are able to introduce, develop and conclude topics in nonfiction writing across science,

social studies and math topics. Narratives have a clear sequence of events. Fourth graders write in

many genres for a variety of purposes. They understand the purposes and characteristics of these

genres.

Fourth grade writers begin to hone their craft and use voice in their writing. They incorporate a variety

of beginnings and endings to engage the reader and sustain that reader’s interest. Paragraphs are used

to organize ideas and information is organized according to purpose.

Fourth graders incorporate descriptive language and sensory language and details to aid the reader in

understanding the piece of writing. Students support their written claims with relevant and accurate

evidence. They also use information from a variety of sources when writing in all genres.

Fourth grade writers craft both simple and complex sentences, use correct punctuation, and they spell

high frequency words accurately. They are familiar with typing using a computer and they can write

legibly.