



Preparing for Grade Four What Students Need to Know and Do

Calgary Classical Academy

As students prepare for Grade Four at Calgary Classical Academy, parents and teachers should work with them to master the following skills. We do not expect students to have mastered all of these skills and will continue to work on them in school during their Grade Four year. The intention of this document is to provide an approximate developmental level to guide parents and teachers as they prepare for their children to begin in our classes.

Personal and Study Skills

Students should be able to:

- Use eye contact and words like “please” and “thank you” when speaking with adults and peers;
- Line up and move silently through a hallway for short periods;
- Follow multi-step instructions with minimal prompting or assistance;
- Raise their hand to speak during whole-class discussions and lessons;
- Use self-calming strategies to help themselves self sooth and regulate when upset;
- Tie shoelaces, and keep track of their own belongings independently;
- Sit at a desk peacefully for extended periods of time; and,
- Be able to keep an agenda and begin to track academic obligations.

Penmanship

- Neat and controlled printing
- Basic note-taking skills, with teacher guidance
- Consistent use of left-hand margin on ruled paper to begin new sentences

Spelling & Grammar

- [Ayres Spelling Scale](#) (students entering grade 4 should be able to spell words contained on pp. 1-8)
- Eight parts of speech
- Identify complete sentences vs. sentence fragments
- Identify proper use of capitalization rules for proper nouns, beginning of sentences, the pronoun *I*



- Identify proper use of commas and end marks, i.e. periods, question marks

Composition

- Write in complete sentences, avoiding run-ons and sentence fragments
- Proper use of punctuation and capitalization
- To help with summer writing try using No Red Ink - <https://www.noredink.com/>
- Be able to write independently for sustained periods using paper and pencil
- Be able to write 3 paragraphs with 5 sentences each, minimum.

Literature & Reading

- To help parents build reading comprehension over the summer create a student account at <https://readtheory.org/> Be sure to track your child's progress. Complete 15 minutes daily
- Students should be fluent readers, both silently and orally
- Here are some of the novels read in grade 4: C.S. Lewis, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*; Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*; Antoine De Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince*; Sid Fleischman, *The Whipping Boy*; Hilda Van Stockum, *The Winged Watchman*; J.R.R. Tolkien, *Farmer Giles of Ham*; Charles Dickens, *A Child's History of England*

History

- Students should be acquainted with the early modern period of history learned in grade three. This may be accomplished by reading or listening to the audio version of Susan Wise-Bauer's *The Story of the World: Early Modern Times*, vol. 3.

Mathematics - Singapore Dimensions

- Math fluency: students should have automaticity with addition and subtraction facts up to 9+9. Automaticity is the ability to recall a fact within 3 seconds. Find exercises at webmathminute.com.
- Know problem solving language and be able to decode and solve word problems
- **Singapore Dimension 3A and 3B:** students should have a strong grasp of concepts contained in these texts. Textbooks and workbooks may be purchased at <https://www.singaporemath.com/> or canadianhomeeducation.com.
- Singapore online lectures can be accessed for those who would like extra help for their children. You can access them by following the instructions below (please keep this information within the CCA community):



<https://vimeo.com/>

Login: Colleen.parks@classicalacademy.ca

Password: CCA2022!

Once in go to <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/purchases> to view the Grade 3 videos

- Tutoring or support in Math?

<https://www.seriouslyaddictivemaths.ca/eng/pages/home>

<https://www.flyingminds.ca/mathtutor>

<https://calgarybrightminds.com/programs/>

Kumon

- To review the entire scope and sequence for Singapore Math 3A and 3B, and for K - 5 please review the following document:

https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope_1.pdf?v=1635780325

- To see an overview for Singapore Math Dimensions 3A and 3B please review the following:

[https://singapore-math.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Alignments/DM_G3A-Overview.p
df](https://singapore-math.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Alignments/DM_G3A-Overview.pdf)

[https://singapore-math.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Alignments/DM_G3B-Overview.p
df](https://singapore-math.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Alignments/DM_G3B-Overview.pdf)

Digital Detox

CCA is a smart phone free environment, and the use of technology is limited, and purposeful at every grade level. There is substantial evidence that technology is causing great harm to our children. Please consider a digital detox for your family over the summer months to help prepare them for school. Here are some readings and resources that will help you:

[How a Digital Detox Could Improve Your Child's Behavior Problems](#)

[Digital Detox: How to Limit Screen Time for Kids](#)

[Digital Detox: The Two-Week Tech Reset for Kids by Molly DeFrank](#)

We hope you find the information above useful. We look forward to the upcoming school year!

Best Regards,

The Grade Four Teachers
Colleen Parks, Principal Educator