

Burke County Public Schools
Nine Week Pacing Guide
Writing/Grammar
4th Grade

Cover Sheet

This pacing guide had been developed to assist fourth grade educators as they teach the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and prepare their students for the North Carolina Writing Assessment. This week by week approach includes grammar and ideas for incorporating writing across the curriculum.

To improve the content of narratives, a heavy emphasis is placed on the writing lessons provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Teachers are encouraged to use other resources as they deem necessary to teach mini-lessons in order to review or reteach a skill or concept.

It is imperative that writing occur **daily** in **all** subject areas. This pacing guide allows students the opportunity to write several times each grading period; however, much of this guide focuses on teaching students how to improve their writing. As students write in other subject areas, they should be held accountable for spelling high frequency words correctly, writing complete sentences, using correct punctuation, and using neat handwriting.

Included in the back of this pacing guide is a list of the "High Frequency Words". Fourth grade students are to be held accountable for correctly spelling High Frequency Words throughout the entire year. There are many strategies that can be used to help students learn to spell these words correctly, including:

- incorporating 5-10 High Frequency Words into weekly Spelling lessons and tests.
- focus on 270-300 High Frequency Words during the First Nine-Week Grading Period by creating 9 lessons of 25-30 words each and testing students weekly.
- quizzing students daily or weekly on High Frequency Words and provide the practice necessary for mastering words students misspell.
- having students keep a log of High Frequency Words they consistently spell incorrectly and provide the practice necessary for mastering words they misspell.
- providing parents/guardians with a list of High Frequency Words so students can receive extra help at home.

Students should be aware that misspelling these High Frequency Words negatively affects their conventions score on the state writing test.

Handwriting is also an element that should be considered throughout writing instruction. Students should be required to submit all work, whether in cursive or print, that is indicative of their neatest work.

Teacher modeling is a powerful strategy that can be used during writing instruction throughout the year. The purpose of teacher modeling is to provide students with a clear model of a skill or concept.