

A Day in the Life of a 4th Grader



7:30am James checks his Charlotte Lab School email account for announcements from his teacher; his father then drives him to his cluster stop so he can catch the bus to school.

8:25am James moves into his Math block. According to his school account, he is responsible for watching a short lesson on a laptop on comparing fractions with unlike denominators. Later his teacher will work with him in a small group in the Commons to create and solve story problems using sample fractions from his lesson.

10:25am Next James reports to his Literacy block. Since the 4th grade's Social Studies focus is on U.S. History, James has just completed a historical fiction chapter book from the Great Depression era. He is currently reading a variety of informational articles on the topic and is getting ready to compare and contrast the fiction and nonfiction texts. He will use this research and information to write a narrative memoir from the perspective of an individual who lived through Great Depression.

12:20pm For recess today James walks with his teacher and classmates to the neighborhood park. He organizes a game of "I Spy" as they walk down the street and then "Capture the Flag" once they arrive at the park.

1:15pm James is looking forward to his Enrichment block next. Two days a week he has a physical activity and this quarter he has chosen to take Tae Kwon Do from a private instructor. He really enjoys learning the craft as well as becoming more self-disciplined. The other three days a week he explores Visual Arts class.

3:00pm James finishes the day in Learning Lab. During this time he works one-on-one with a teacher or assistant on a Reading or Math objective that he needs additional support with. This week he struggled with main idea; he first reads selected passages on an Ipad then summarizes the main idea for his teacher and the discuss his strategies.

4:45pm At home, James reviews all of his assignments for the week. He decides to first complete the questions for his Quest; then he watches his next online video for Math.

8:15am James arrives at school and reports to Morning Meeting, where he reflects with his Team on yesterday's work and makes a plan for his tasks for today.

9:25am It's time for James' Mandarin Chinese class. In the upper grades there were only a small group of students who chose to take Chinese so he is in a 3rd – 4th grade combination class. For their first year learning the language, their teacher is working with them on learning the alphabet, basic vocabulary, everyday expressions and some essential information about Chinese culture and history. James enjoys speaking a new language!

11:55am James has certainly worked up an appetite and is ready for lunch! A few days a week he brings his lunch, but today he is excited to receive his catered lunch delivered to his classroom by a lunch helper; in his previous Quest (challenge-based unit) his grade level grew and supplied some of the herbs and vegetables to the local Charlotte caterer who prepares and delivers the Charlotte Lab School lunch.

12:50pm Upon returning to school, it is time for James to meet with his Advisory group. A few students bring up an ongoing conflict they have been having with some of their Team members while planning their Quest. They are concerned that the workload is not being shared equally but they don't know how to address the issue. James tries to problem-solve the situation and his peers plan to try out his suggestions tomorrow.

2:00pm James returns to his Team room for his daily work on their Advertising Quest. Today this consists of preparing interview questions for a local Advertising executive who will be visiting the class in a few days. Ultimately his Team will be putting together an Advertising campaign for the professional company which they can pitch to a future client.

3:40pm James begins to pack up his things for the day and checks his planner to make sure he has all of his materials to complete his homework. He then listens to a few final school announcements and waits for his bus number to be called.