

Elementary Curriculum: Grade Four

Religion

Fourth graders will learn through stories, prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion, reflection, and weekly mass about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day. The focus is on the Holy Trinity, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, liturgical seasons, morality, church structure, commandments, beatitudes, saints, and service. They will also complete a Saints Project and learn the Nicene Creed.

English Language Arts

The Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

Reading

Students experience different genres such as poetry, folktales, literary and informational, fantasies, and plays. Reading fluency will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills throughout the year:

- Understanding cause and effect
- Examining and describing elements of literature (plot, characters, setting, theme) within a story
- Identifying figurative language
- Analyzing details
- Developing vocabulary
- Practice and gain skills in reading different genres
- Summarizing
- Comparing & contrasting

Writing

Fourth grade students use writing to convey meaning. Our students will write legibly, write multiple sequential paragraphs on a given topic, apply and apply grammar and mechanics including parts of speech, simple tenses, and punctuation. Fourth grade students also use the writing process including pre-writing, writing, revising, editing and final draft. Furthermore, fourth grade students write in a variety of forms including guided writing, friendly letters, descriptive paragraphs, expository nonfiction, opinion paragraphs, narrative stories, book reviews, and journal entries. Fourth grade students also learn how to write in outline form.

- Narrative
- Informative
- Explanatory and opinion pieces

Speaking and Listening

Fourth Grade students will listen for understanding, follow directions and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will participate in class discussions. Students will also present material orally and make presentations to individuals and small groups.

Mathematics

Fourth Grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve math problems. In all areas students will use appropriate tools strategically and will attend to precision. Our fourth grade students will:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Become familiar with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers
- Understand decimal notation for fractions and compare decimal fractions
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion from larger unit to smaller unit
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of angles and measure angles
- Draw and identify lines and angles and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

Science

Fourth Grade students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining. Our fourth grade students will study:

- Explain relationship of living things to their environment
- Describe characteristics of light and sound
- Describe and use simple electrical circuit
- Identify and classify rocks
- Identify effects on water, rock cycles
- Describe factors affecting ecosystems
- Study the digestive, circulatory, and nervous systems
- Senses and sense organs
- Energy and work
- Solar system
- Weather
- Oceans
- Simple machines

Social Studies

Fourth Grade students will acquire social and cultural understanding of the world around them. The focus will be:

- Immigration
- Regions of the United States
- U.S. geography
- U.S. Government
- U.S. Economy
- Illinois geography and history – inquiry based unit

Physical Education

In fourth grade, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, develop muscle strength, endurance and flexibility, use rules, safety and strategies of sports and games, demonstrate sportsmanship and participation in sports and games.

Art

In fourth grade, the students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. Students will use elements and principles of art to express ideas, interpret artistic products and experiences, learn how art reflects and shapes society and life.

Technology

Our fourth grade students will visit the technology lab and use software for reinforcement of classroom lessons. They will combine text and use of other tools to create a project, use tool bar and menus for productivity navigation, create and use a database, understand copyright violations, create a multimedia presentation. Fourth graders will also focus on learning proper keyboarding technique.

Library

Fourth Grade students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week. They will also recognize different sections of the library and know how to use a library. Fourth grade students will define a research topic through key word searches.