

Curriculum Overview – Fourth Grade

BIBLE COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aim of Bible class is to present the Bible as God's self revelation, showing His character and His dealings with men on the basis of His covenant promises. The Bible is taught not as a history book, a theological treatise, or a rule book, but as the divinely inspired and infallible Word of God. Fourth grade students continue the study of the **Old Testament**. Unit I is designed to teach the students "how to" study the Bible. The remainder of the year is spent with the kings and prophets from Saul through the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

ENGLISH

English is about the development of receptive and expressive language skills. It involves listening, reading, speaking and writing. Connecting grammar skills to other language arts is important for improved listening, speaking, and writing skills. The fourth grade continues the development of grammar through systematic and sequential practice and use of correct grammar, encourages clear and effective writing through the purposed instruction and practice of the writing process, and improves listening and speaking skills. Units of study in grammar and writing alternate to provide a strong link between these two areas of language arts.

SPELLING

The spelling curriculum in fourth grade guides the students toward better spelling, a richer vocabulary, and the enjoyment of good poetry. Students are introduced to weekly spelling lists that reinforce phonic sounds, spelling rules, and use of dictionary. During the course of the week, the students will divide words into syllables and work related exercises that reinforce spelling and vocabulary skills. Additionally, the students are exposed to a variety of age-appropriate poetry selections throughout the year.

PENMANSHIP

The goal of fourth grade penmanship is the mastery of letter formation and correct letter size. Correct penmanship is practiced and assessed across the curriculum.

READING

The reading curriculum for fourth grade emphasizes comprehension and systematically develops specific reading skills along with vocabulary, literature and study skills. This combination produces confident, eager readers who continue to read for enjoyment and knowledge throughout life. The variety in the reading selections provides the students with both pleasure and understanding and is delightful to teach. Several novels, which broaden the reading opportunities for fourth graders, are introduced during the school year. With the collaboration of the librarian, students are provided opportunities to select reading materials and participate in the Book-It and Scholastic Reading Counts reading programs.

HISTORY / GEOGRAPHY:

The fourth grade history curriculum presents history in a narrative format that stimulates the students' interest in famous people, major events, scientific advances, changes in thinking, communication, and ways of travel; all from the perspective of what made America great. It is the students' first formal introduction to the study of history and major geographical concepts. Of great significance and interest is the students' first in-depth look at their home state, its historical contributions to our nation, its colorful leaders and the beautiful natural resources.

SCIENCE / HEALTH:

Science enables the elementary student to see God through His orderly creation. The development of scientific inquiry is begun in the elementary grades. The students are introduced to basic, age-appropriate scientific principles in physical science, earth and space science, and life science. The wonders of the body God has given us are reinforced through the study of the different systems in the body. Demonstrations, experiments, projects, and research activities provide students with a hands-on understanding of scientific principles.

MATH:

The major thrust of fourth grade math is to master the basic principles of each of the four simple processes. Much time is designated to mastery from the simple to the complex in each of the four processes. Recognizing that this is the underpinning of the curriculum for fourth grade, the students also solve story problems, solve problems containing fractions, decimals, and solve problems with formulas. The students learn to work with fractions, decimals, whole numbers, money, factors, geometric principles and more. It is a year of foundational math principles that help students make the leap into more advanced math thinking.

Art, Music and Physical Education

These are enrichment classes that are part of the elementary curriculum. These classes are graded with a +, S, -. The instructors are specialists in their areas.

The physical education classes lay the foundation for life-long health and recreation. The music classes are designed to foster a love for music and the worship of God. Elementary art exposes students to the basic elements of art and art mediums. The goal is for students to learn to appreciate great art and develop the artistic talents given by their creator.