

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION:

Old Testament accounts are presented in lessons with emphasis on Old Testament prophecy which points the way to Christ. Significant time is devoted to the study of the New Testament, centering on the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ. The curriculum is designed to help children grow in their faith, while reinforcing traditional Christian values. Materials are presented in such a way to teach children about key concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace. Integration of faith is incorporated across the curriculum. Children participate weekly in chapel services and periodically throughout the year have the opportunity to lead services.

ENGLISH:

Emphasis is placed on grammar, the identification and proper use of parts of speech (nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs). Skills are then developed and reinforced in writing, emphasizing different types of paragraphs in writing friendly and business letters, short stories, and creative writing.

MATH:

This curriculum is designed to help the student continue to develop an understanding of the basic concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Through a variety of avenues basic math concepts are reinforced. Students are introduced to double and triple digit multiplication and long division. Later in the year students are challenged in working with the concepts of fractions, decimals, and word problems.

READING & SPELLING/VOCABULARY:

Through a series of stories students gain an appreciation of literature as they develop skills in critical thinking, phonics, and comprehension and learn various study skills. Students are challenged as they work with creative writing styles and incorporate them into the reading and studying of various stories. Assessment is based upon homework, story quizzes, study skills, and unit tests. Students will gain an understanding of a spelling-meaning relationship in words through developing dictionary skills, proofreading, vocabulary skills, and vowel sounds. A portion of the words each week are vocabulary words from the reading story and are incorporated into the weekly spelling test. Students are expected to spell correctly a given amount of words on a weekly basis. Students in fourth grade are also involved in an in-depth study on vocabulary development. Every two weeks a new unit is introduced with a designated set of vocabulary words. Through each unit students are introduced to new spelling patterns and rules along with a review of synonyms and antonyms. Assessment is based on homework in the workbook and a unit quiz.

SCIENCE:

The curriculum in 4th grade covers the areas of life, physical, and earth science. Each unit provides an opportunity for students to experience hands-on activities, independent work and study, along with computer integration. Students explore and learn to appreciate the world that God has given them. Student work is assessed on the content of independent work and chapter tests. STEM activities integrate science, technology, engineering, and math with real-world problem solving. A highlight of the year in fourth grade science is the completion of a project for the Art and Science Fair in the spring.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

Students are introduced to five basic themes of geography (region, human/environment, interactions, location, place, and movement). Throughout the year the five key concepts help students describe their own adventures as they explore various regions of the United States. Each region of the United States is then compared to a similar region of the world. Various projects throughout the year help the students to learn all fifty states and their capitals. Pennsylvania history is also an intricate part of the curriculum. Students are guided through the basic history and geography of their home state through the use of *Pennsylvania, U.S.A.* A supplemental workbook is used to give extra enrichment of Pennsylvania facts and details, as well as an incorporation of writing skills.

MUSIC

Students will continue to play instruments, sing, move, listen, and play games that develop their musical understanding of various instruments and styles. They will be introduced to traditional families of instruments and performance groups while learning more advanced rhythms and melodic concepts. All students are given opportunities to praise God as they learn to express their musical gifts to His glory through worship, special presentations, and classroom activities.