

First Assembly Christian School Fourth Grade Curriculum

Language

Students study sentence structure, parts of speech, topic sentences, supporting sentences, tenses of verbs, and persuasive information, and narrative writing. Daily Oral Language exercises are used to supplement the language curriculum by sharpening grammar and punctuation skills in writing. We strengthen the students' writing skills through the continued development of organizational skills and writing enhancements such as using vivid details. Students prepare for the North Carolina writing assessment all year by participating in a group workshop and individual conferences.

Text: English 4 – Houghton Mifflin

Daily Oral Language – Grade 4 – McDougal – Littell & Company

Wordly Wise – Educators Publishing Service, Inc.

Literature

We incorporate a variety of teaching techniques and experiences to provide a rich literature environment. The literature selections serve as a means to building reading comprehension and critical thinking skills as well as building vocabulary and an appreciation for literature. Whole-class novels are interspersed throughout the year. Skills such as categorizing and classifying, identifying main ideas, summarizing, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, and interpreting characters' feelings and actions are explored intensively. Literary concepts such as setting, plot, characterizations, theme, mood and figurative language are also studied. We also use *Accelerated Reader* to enhance our literature program. Accelerated Reader gives our students the opportunity to customize their reading and to test comprehension based on their individual reading level. Students also work with news articles in God's Weekly World News and reading comprehension through Read and Think quizzes.

Text: Literature Works – Silver Burdett & Ginn

Various Novels – Indian in the Cupboard; Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Read & Think Skills Sheets - Abeka

Spelling

Our spelling program is based on a list of the 1200 most frequently used words in the English language. The instructional approach is patterned after reading instruction strategies: teaching words in context rather than isolation, applying skills in a variety of settings, teaching the skills within the student's own writing, making it relevant and important to the student. Our goal is to effect life long mastery that carries over into all settings and writing environments. We begin with the high frequency "core" words. Activities are designed to develop visual skills and long term retention skills. Students are taught to apply the spelling strategies, rules and skills they learn in real writing situations. They will be held accountable for spelling these "priority" words correctly.

Text: Rebecca Sitton's Spelling Sourcebooks, Wordly Wise-Educators Publishing Services

Math

The fourth grade math program is designed to motivate students and teach them to apply mathematical skills to everyday experiences. The program incorporates place value through millions, basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills, estimation, measurement, equations, and story problems in a sensible and thoughtful manner. Students work with proper and improper fractions, decimals, money, and equations containing an unknown number. Mental math techniques are incorporated to ensure quality thinking skills.

Text: Arithmetic 4 – Scott Foresman, Daily Math & Daily Analogy - McDougal

Science

Our curriculum leads the students continually from the known to the unknown by teaching important science concepts within the context of things that they can see and know. The aim is to help students understand basic principles of science rather than merely to teach them science facts. Students learn how to recognize the plants they see; how to identify birds in their own backyards. Activities are included throughout the year to support the learning of basic science and the development of thinking skills. Demonstrations, experiments, projects, and research activities give students a "hand-on" understanding

of scientific principles. Main topics include insects, birds, plants, matter, simple machines, animals and oceanography.

Text: Understanding God's World: Grade 4 (Textbook and Workbook) – A Beka, God's World News, AIMS activities

History & Geography

In fourth grade history, a detailed study of U.S. History and geography is taught. Highlights include a study of early American history, colonization and politics. Students also learn the names of the states and capitals. A study of the state of North Carolina is incorporated with a research paper to enhance writing and research skills. Students learn how to use and incorporate technology and the internet while working both in groups and as individuals.

Text: The History of Our U.S. - A Beka, N.C., It's Land and People – Silver Burdett & Ginn, Daily Geography

Bible

Students learn a hands-on approach to Bible study through a fun detective character and his dog. They explore the use of context, concordances, maps and timelines to independently learn about God's Word. Devotions and scripture memorization are an integral part of the fourth grade curriculum. Real-life issues are dealt with through personal experiences as related by the teacher. These devotionals are challenging and interesting! Some of our topics include wisdom, attentiveness, thankfulness, meekness, self control, diligence, forgiveness and patience.

Text: Bible (NIV)
ACSI Bible Curriculum, Various Devotional books and stories

Field Trips

Fourth grade students visit the local Heritage Theatre to participate in a theatrical experience of "Blackbeard's Carolina." They also go to Bethabara Historical Park to enrich the study of early colonial life and see a local play. The highlight of all fourth-grade trips is the visit to Raleigh in the spring. In Raleigh the students tour the State capitol, and two museums: science and history. They also enjoy Heritage Day during the Dixie Classic Fair when they learn about the Carolina heritage and ways of farm life.

Music

Fourth grade students practice good singing habits in posture, breath control and intonation. They begin simple two-part singing using rounds and counter melodies. They continue to improve reading skills by playing recorder and various pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments. They create their own instrumental music using improvisation techniques with recorder and various percussion instruments. Movement and dance is practiced to show how dance reflects the mood and/or text of the music. Listening selections are used to teach historical and national styles and to reinforce musical concepts.

Art

In fourth grade, the Art II curriculum is based on the elements and principles of design. Students will develop their knowledge and skill as they study differences in forms, lines, colors, values, textures, space, balance, contrast, and repetition. They will use different materials and develop their technique in applying media.

Media

Fourth grade students have the opportunity to visit the Media center twice a week. This class allows students to check out books from the library, learn library skills, become familiar with all kinds of literature, research topics for classroom projects, take Accelerated Reading quizzes, and work on technology skills. Students learn basic keyboarding and operational skills. Students also use computer software and activities to reinforce educational skills introduced in the classroom.

Physical Education

Students work with the physical education teacher three times a week. Sportsmanship as well as developmentally appropriate skills are practiced.

Spanish

Students begin this course in the 2nd grade and complete it by the 8th grade. Its purpose is to expose the student to basic reading, writing, oral, and listening skills in Spanish. Upon completion, students will be able to take Spanish II in their freshman year of high school. Emphasis is placed on students acquiring a working knowledge of the language to assist in their transition into high school.

Text: Realidades 1 – Prentice Hall