



Fourth Grade Curriculum

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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Fourth Grade Curriculum Academic Program



Religion /Scripture

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith. Fourth grade: "Jesus Our Guide"

Aim

To help fourth grade students understand their purpose and goal in life, and to see God's plan in history and society to lead us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

Theme

God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

Sequence

B.C. Before Christ

Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders.

A.D. In the Year of Our Lord

Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

Reading/Language Arts

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

† Developing comprehension

† Practicing skills in writing

The Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs.

Features of this series:

† Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.

† Science and social studies themes.

† A moral or virtue value in every story.

† Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.

† Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

Selections include:

Poetry

Fiction

Illustrated Classics

Folktales

Plays

Nonfiction

Character Tales

Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

Reading/Language Arts continued...

Themes for the fourth grade texts:

- † Risks and Consequences
- † Business
- † Medicine
- † Surviving
- † Technology
- † Colonial life

Supplemental Readers

- † Bible History
- † Bennets Book of Virtues for Young People
- † Lives of the Saints for Children
- † Parent approved chapter books
- † Quick Reads (fluency program)
- † Novels
- † National Geographic Publications

Writing

Fourth graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the appropriate grammar and sequence. Students will continue to develop expertise in:

- † Narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive essays
- † Journal writing
- † Outlines
- † Poetry
- † Use of vivid language and sensory images
- † Fictional stories
- † Character sketches
- † Use of similes
- † Book reports

English

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The workbook provides the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the fourth grade:

- † Regular verbs
- † Verb phrases
- † Linking verbs
- † Future tense verbs
- † Proper adjectives
- † Compound subject
- † Compound predicate
- † Diagramming complex sentences
- † Abbreviations
- † Direct quotations
- † Outline form
- † Double negatives

Spelling

Students are taught spelling rules, patterns, and high frequency words in a structured spelling program called Spelling Workout, published by Modern Curriculum Press. These skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program.

Vocabulary

The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use the richer vocabulary in everyday speech
- † Incorporate new vocabulary in writing assignments

Analogies

Ridgewood Analogies and Shurley English group analogous relationships into five categories: descriptive, comparative, categorical, serial, and causal, with three levels of difficulty within each category. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory.

Math

McGraw-Hill's, My Math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulatives and mental math. The program is based upon mastery. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. It covers the following fundamentals:

- † Addition, subtraction, and multiplication of whole numbers and fractions
- † Relating multiplication and division
- † Identify place value and the uses of place value
- † Understand properties and rules of mathematics
- † Mastering multiplication with one-digit and two-digit numbers
- † Mastering division by a one-digit number
- † Estimating the reasonableness of an answer
- † Introduction to patterns, sequences, and order of operation
- † Differentiate between factors and multiples as well as prime and composite numbers
- † Recognize the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions
- † Perform operations with fractions and mixed numbers: addition and subtraction
- † Convert, order, and add decimals and fractions
- † Convert customary and metric units of length , capacity, and mass
- † Measure and calculate area and perimeter
- † Geometry - lines, points, rays, angles, triangles, quadrilaterals

Science

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Series provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Students are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

Life Science

- † Comparing living things
- † Plant reproduction
- † Adaptations
- † Ecology

Physical Science

- † Classifying matter
- † Investigating motion
- † Forms of energy

Earth Science

- † The changing earth
- † The earth's resources
- † Climate and weather
- † The Solar System

Supplemental Readers

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
 - ⇒ *Shaping Earth's Surface*
 - ⇒ *Life Cycles*
 - ⇒ *Animals in Their Habitats*

Social Studies

Evan-Moor Daily Geography prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program

presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The fourth grade text, Illinois and Our Nation, explores themes that focus on:

- † The United States: Past and Present
- † Exploring and settling America
- † The struggle for independence; life in a growing nation and world
- † Toward the modern age
- † Our country's regions, climates, government, and economy
- † Toward Our democratic values

Geography

A comprehensive map skills program from Modern Curriculum Press called, Map, Charts, and Graphs, covers map skills. Concepts covered in fourth grade are:

- † Mapping the World
- † Big River
- † Elevation
- † Volcanoes and Earthquakes
- † Hot/Cold: Wet/Dry
- † Tornado Alley
- † Time Zones
- † Population Maps
- † Trade Maps

Supplemental Readers

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
 - ⇒ *Places and Events*
 - ⇒ *Providing Goods*

Health

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

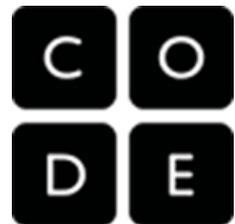
- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication
- † Advances in the field of medicine

STEM

Students integrate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in a variety of problem solving situations. Students apply the Scientific Method and Engineering Process during experiential learning.

Computer Science

Code.org enables students to become algorithmic thinkers as they work through puzzles with increasing complexity in the computer lab. In addition to coding, students learn about digital citizenship. Individual typing accounts allow students to practice keyboarding fluency.



Library

Students come to the library weekly to check out books at their reading level. When research projects are assigned, students are directed to the appropriate subject matter.

Physical Education

Fourth grade students learn to move their body through space with greater speed, agility, and accuracy. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Student activities relate to:

- † Muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility
- † Exercise and fitness
- † Moving with coordination
- † Rules, safety, and strategies of sports and games
- † Sportsmanship

Art

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Enjoy creating their own art
- † Express their individuality through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works
- † Study the lives of great artists

Music

Fourth graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Following a tune
- † Identifying musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguishing elements of music
- † Interpreting musical compositions
- † Band and choir are offered on an extra curricular basis
- † Perform in a musical program twice a year

Spanish

¡Viva el Español The curriculum, by McGraw-Hill, is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment for young learners of Spanish.

General Information

Report Cards/Progress Reports

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students will also receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

Parent Conferences

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

Homework

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects. Expect to give some assistance. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage or prohibit TV on school nights
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (8 hours for fourth graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

SchoolSpeak

Kindergarten - 8th Grade

SchoolSpeak is an online communication tool which allows parents and students to view homework, newsletters, grades, and report cards. Parents and teachers can easily message each other when the need arises.

