

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Ss. Peter & Paul School

RELIGION

Through stories, Scripture, activities, prayer, discussion, and reflections students will develop a more personal sense of their Catholic identity. Students will deepen their sense of responsibility for living what they believe.

Students will:

- Integrate the practice of their faith in all subject areas
- Understand the purpose and meanings of liturgical seasons
- Learn the symbolism of the stained glass windows in Ss. Peter & Paul Church
- Plan and participate in worship services
- Perform ten hours of service to others
- Learn the Acts of Faith, Hope, Love and Confiteor
- Participate in Steps to Respect lessons



LANGUAGE ARTS

Students will further develop their methods and styles of written and oral communication as a means of effectively conveying their messages to others and expressing their ideas. They will write creatively on weekly basis.

Students will:

- Write legibly in cursive
- Write well-structured paragraphs
- Write multi-paragraph essays and stories on given topics
- Use rules of grammar and the parts of speech correctly
- Write for a variety of purposes – correspond, persuade, inform, entertain
- Use a prescribed writing process: pre-writing, first draft, edit and revising, final draft, publishing
- Follow written and oral directions carefully
- Self-correct their work
- Orally present their work in a concise and confident manner
- Take on various roles that facilitate effective small group communication: Leader, Recorder, Reporter
- Participate in large and small group presentations
- Integrate written and oral communication skills into all subject areas
- Increase their vocabulary through the Worldly Wise program
- Weekly review various writing and grammar skills through the Mountain Language program

Reading

Students will gain an appreciation for different genres of literature such as realistic fiction, historical fiction, folk tale, play, fantasy, non-fiction, etc. Students will employ a menu of strategies aimed at increasing comprehension.

Students will:

- Identify and explain parts of a story: characters, settings, problems, main events, and solutions
- Understand the characteristics of the different genres regarding writing style, format, content, and purpose
- Understand an author's purpose for writing
- Create graphic organizers to aid in their story comprehension
- Extend their reading experience beyond what is written by inferring, predicting, personally connecting, and self-questioning
- Understand cause and effect
- Understand fact and opinion
- Understand how to select a book based on favored authors and genres
- Develop a good reading habits by reading one hundred minutes weekly
- Creatively explore a variety of methods to express their understanding of a book's characters, plot, setting, and problem/solution

MATHEMATICS

Fourth grade students will apply their basic number skills to solve problems through the use of text, manipulatives, technology, and everyday situations.

Students will:

- Identify place value through hundredths
- Have frequent drills on facts to increase automation
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers
- Add and subtract fractions
- Round numbers for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Estimate numbers for all four operations
- Describe and use patterns
- Measure and compare units of length
- Measure capacity and weight in customary system
- Identify polygons
- Solve multi-step word problems
- Write in words how to solve word problems
- Compare and graph data
- Demonstrate a variety of problem solving strategies
- Find the range, median, mode and outliers in a set of data
- Identify and classify two and three dimensional figures

SCIENCE

Fourth grade is the foundational year of approximately ten years of full time science instruction. Students will, in addition to learning facts about various topics, begin to learn how scientists observe, record, think and operate safely.

Students will study:

- The human body (basic organization, digestive system, circulatory system)
- Matter (volume of regular solids, irregular solids, liquids, states of matter, matter changing state, chemical properties and changes)
- Electricity (what electricity is, static electrical charge, current electricity, magnetism, relationship between electrical and magnetic forces)

- Make-up of earth (earth's layers, changes in the crust, rock cycle, soil)
- Space (motion of sun, moon, earth, and their effects on earth)
- Earth's atmosphere (water cycle, atmospheric pressure, wind, humidity, clouds)
- Plants (parts of a plant, parts of a flower, basic plant reproduction and life cycle)
- Scientific process (parts of process, experimental design, introduction to formal experiment report)

SOCIAL STUDIES

The fourth grade students will explore the five themes of geography – location, human-environment, interactions, place and movement for an in-depth exploration of the Regions of the United States: Northeast, South, Middle West and west. The students will use the textbook *States and Regions: Illinois Edition* published by Harcourt Horizons. We explore Illinois' past and present using map skills, our textbook and a field trip to Naper Settlement.

The following map skills and concepts will be developed during the year:

- Using latitude and longitude to find absolute location
- Reading elevation maps, land use and resource maps
- How to read a time line
- Road maps and mileage maps
- Compare maps with different scales
- Compare historical maps
- Read a population map
- Use a time zone map
- Use a cultural map

FINE ARTS

Art

All students will be taught the language of the arts through understanding the sensory elements and expressive qualities; understanding the similarities, distinctions and connections in and among the arts.

Through creating and performing all students will understand how works of art are produced. Students will learn about the processes, traditional tools and modern technologies used in the visual arts. Students will apply skills and knowledge necessary to create visual arts.

Students will understand the role of the arts in civilizations, past and present. Students will analyze how the arts function in history, society and everyday life. Students will understand how the arts shape and reflect history, society and everyday life.

Music

All students will be given the opportunity to perform on stage in the school musical.

In fourth grade students will have the opportunity to learn an instrument and perform in a group band concert.

During their weekly music class students will:

- Play musical instruments in a group setting
- Play a musical recorder and perform with their recorders
- Read musical notes and symbols
- Understand note values
- Be introduced to basic music theory
- Be introduced to basic concepts of a marching band

- Distinguish different types of musical instruments
- Learn about two composers

SPANISH

The fourth grade students meet weekly for Spanish class for 45 minutes and will be able to:

- Recognize a sight word vocabulary consisting of colors, numbers, the home, common animals and food
- Copy words, phrases and sentences in Spanish
- Respond appropriately in Spanish to simple questions concerning introductions, greetings, the home, animals and food
- Use Spanish numbers to solve simple math exercises

PROJECT EXPLORE

All fourth grade students will have the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills in a twice monthly 45 minute Project Explore session. The focus of activities will be:

- The furthering of intellectual curiosity by solving puzzles, riddles, and challenging mind games
- Higher level thinking skill problem-solving

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Demonstrate sportsmanship in all activities
- Apply rules in physical activities as the students are introduced to flag football, softball, kickball, whiffle ball, volleyball, basketball, badminton (singles, doubles), Frisbee golf and the Fitness Center
- Develop skills for individual and team activities

TECHNOLOGY

Technology is incorporated with class curriculum and infused as a tool throughout. Teachers will use the ELMO and SMARTBoard for demonstrations and interactive learning. During fourth grade the students will be introduced to and master the following skills:

- Touch type at speed equal to handwriting rate (5-15 words per minute)
- Produce a simple presentation and create buttons to move in a nonlinear fashion
- Create animations
- Create, organize, and delete files and folders
- Use keyboard shortcuts for editing
- Move to and select specific cells in a spreadsheet
- Produce and edit a word processed document with the use of the spellchecker
- Use keyword outlining in a word processing software program
- Use a hotlist to research an animal on an online zoo and locate information using a graphic organizer to record answers
- Understand about e-mail and instant message safety

HOMEWORK

Fourth graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well



as completion of special projects. On an average fourth grade students can expect 45 minutes of homework daily.