

4TH GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

The 4th grade curriculum challenges each student to reach his/her highest potential by offering a program that is integrated in subject matter and technology, project/ activity enriched and child-group centered. Extending the “classroom walls” of learning is vital to the program. Participation in programs that “bring life to the written words” personalizes learning. Students are encouraged to mature in mind, body, spirit and “heart” in a safe, loving, nurturing, and positive environment. The teacher is certified by the state of Florida and continually pursues academic excellence in the commitment as a Catholic educator.

Religion:

The Religion program is the “heart” of our whole curriculum. Grade 4 uses the nationally recognized William H. Sadlier program, WE BELIEVE, as its core text. The program is designed to deepen a personal relationship with God by living a Eucharistic-centered life, witnessing an action-based life guided by the Commandments, Beatitudes, and Works of Mercy. Goals also include building a personal relationship with God through prayer, meditation, discipleship, and worship. Learning the values, morals, and traditions of our faith is included in the program. Through outreach programs and service projects, the students live out their Baptismal commitment. Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist is celebrated weekly as a school/parish family is celebrated weekly.

Science:

The curriculum in Science is one of a spiral approach. Themes are repeated yearly expanding challenging information and concepts. The series, McGraw-Hill, is used. The Unit themes focus on Living Things, Earth and Beyond, Water and Weather, Energy, and Matter are explored through directed, groups, centers, research projects, visuals, and experiments. Science is an integrated subject.

Fourth Grade Curriculum (cont.)

Language Arts:

The Language Arts program includes the subject-areas of reading, English, spelling, vocabulary development, Library, writing, Spanish, and technology. Through various and multiple approaches, attempts are made to reach all students. Students “learn” to read by using the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill text which is literature and skilled-based. It is a “leveled” program. “Reading to learn” is encouraged through technology research, the **READING COUNTS** program, projects of extension, independent and sustained reading time, use of the Library, field trips, and various “in-house” reading materials. The **BOOK IT** program offered by ‘Pizza Hut’ motivates students to venture into new genres of reading and presents them with alternative and creative ways to share their readings. Whole group as well as small group instruction is incorporated into the reading setting. A major emphasis is placed on all forms of writing. Journaling is included as a skill. Students are encouraged to follow the “Traits of Good Writing”. To expand vocabulary and encourage spelling skills, the text, Wordly Wise is incorporated into the program.

Social Studies:

Using the texts **FLORIDA HORIZONS** and **REGIONS** the students learn the four main themes of geography and begin to appreciate the characteristics and differences of the United States. Through group work, independent study, cooperative learning activities, projects, and presentations created in computer class, students share the wonders of America and its people. As the Florida Sunshine Standards dictate, the “home” state is studied in depth through varied and often unusual ways. Skills such as reading maps, graphs, tables, and charts are practiced. Integration is a key factor in “whole” learning. A trip to historical St. Augustine is the HIGHLIGHT OF GRADE 4!