

Fourth Grade Curriculum

RELIGION

Students will:

- Understand that the Word of God expresses what we believe as Christians and describes how to live out our Catholic faith
- Read, listen to, and discuss the meaning of scripture stories
- Identify ways in which Jesus showed that he was God's promised Messiah
- Describe what the works of Jesus teach us
- Explain how the Holy Spirit helps us in our lives
- Discover what it means to be the People of God
- Describe the work of the Catholic Church
- Illustrate the meaning of the Kingdom of God
- Describe the seven sacraments and how they help us to achieve holiness
- Participate in the celebration of Mass
- Explain what the Beatitudes are and what they teach us about living a happy life
- Demonstrate ways we follow Jesus by making good moral choices
- Explain the Ten Commandments and describe how they help us to show love for God and for other people
- Identify and celebrate the liturgical seasons of the church
- Enrich and expand their prayer life

LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

Students will:

- Use a variety of strategies to derive meaning from texts and to read fluently
- Read independently for extended periods of time to derive pleasure and to gain information
- Make connections between a text read independently and his or her prior knowledge, other texts, and the world
- Summarize and paraphrase texts both printed and non-printed
- Analyze and make predictions about details in texts
- Summarize and paraphrase the main idea of a particular text
- Draw conclusions and make inferences
- Categorize and classify ideas, determine cause and effect, and distinguish between fact and opinion
- Begin using skimming and scanning techniques
- Analyze character traits and motives, setting, and plot in a literary work
- Compare and contrast settings, characters, events, and ideas in a variety of texts

- Identify problem and solution in a work of fiction or drama; begin identifying conflict
- Identify the narrator's point of view in a work of fiction
- Summarize the theme of a particular text
- Distinguish between fiction and nonfiction
- Identify the characteristics of genres such as fiction, poetry, drama, and informational texts
- Identify the author's purpose in a variety of texts
- Apply knowledge of word origins and derivatives, roots and affixes to analyze the meaning of complex words

WRITING

Students will:

- Use graphic representations such as charts, graphs, pictures, and graphic organizers as information sources and as a means of organizing information and events logically
- Respond to texts through a variety of methods, such as creative dramatics, writing, and graphic art
- Identify elements of style like word choice and sentence syntax
- Identify devices of figurative language such as similes, metaphors, and hyperbole and sound devices such as alliteration and onomatopoeia
- Use a dictionary and a thesaurus to determine the meaning of a word or to refine his or her understanding of a word
- Use sentence structure (syntax) and context to determine the meanings of unfamiliar and multiple-meaning words
- Choose a topic, generate ideas, and use oral and written prewriting strategies
- Develop an extended response both printed and non-printed around a central idea in formal and non-formal settings using relevant supporting details
- Edit for language conventions such as spelling, capitalization, punctuation, agreement, sentence structure (syntax), and word usage
- Write and publish in a variety of formats
- Use the Internet and a variety of sources to communicate and access information document sources by listing titles and authors
- Respond to texts both orally and in writing
- Use cursive handwriting

MATH

Students will:

- Read and write numbers through the billions place
- Compare, order, and round numbers through the millions place
- Write numbers in standard form, expanded form, and in words
- Add and subtract whole numbers with fluency
- Recall fluently basic multiplication and division facts and relate division and multiplication
- Multiply two, three, and four digit numbers by one, two, and three digits

- Divide whole numbers using one and two digit divisors
- Use estimation for all math operations to determine the reasonableness of an exact answer
- Count money, make change, and record money notation in all four mathematical operations
- Use variables to represent an unknown quantity
- Solve word problems using the operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Use models, benchmarks, and equivalency to judge the size of fractions
- Compare and order fractions, find equivalent fractions, and reduce fractions to their simplest form
- Identify mixed numbers and improper fractions and convert between the two
- Add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators
- Relate and read various units of time
- Identify plane and solid figures, polygons, and angles
- Identify congruent figures and similar figures
- Make and draw symmetrical figures and identify the lines of symmetry
- Find the perimeter, area, and volume of a geometric figure
- Locate and plot points on a coordinate grid
- Make and use tables and graphs to solve problems
- Study decimals through the hundredths place
- Add and subtract decimals
- Measure using English and metric units

SCIENCE

Students will:

- Use the senses and simple tools to gather information about objects and events
- Classify objects according to two attributes
- Estimate and measure mass, length, area, perimeter, volume, and temperature using metric units of measurement as well as U.S. customary units of measurement
- Explain and interpret an observation based on data
- Predict what will happen using prior knowledge and observation in a science investigation
- Describe how plants are classified
- Identify the parts of flowering plants
- Describe the characteristics of vertebrates and invertebrates
- Identify the living and nonliving parts of an ecosystem
- Discover how energy is transferred within an ecosystem
- Identify and describe adaptations and behavior that help animals and plants survive in a changing environment
- Identify the various structures of the human body and describe their functions
- Explore the components of mass, matter, volume, and density
- Describe physical and chemical changes

- Investigate potential, kinetic, mechanical, and electrical energy
- Explore the relationship between work, forces, and motion
- Investigate the properties of electricity and magnetism, and how they affect matter
- Make simple weather instruments to measure and predict the weather
- Identify landforms of the earth and describe how volcanoes, earthquakes, weathering and erosion affect the earth's features
- Investigate the characteristics of the ocean
- Identify plants and animals that live in aquatic environments
- Compare Earth with the other planets of the solar system

SOCIAL STUDIES

The learner will demonstrate an understanding of the major developments in the history of the United States from the earliest human settlements through the American Revolution.

Students will:

- Describe the events in America, Europe, and Africa that led to a new world in North America
- Compare and contrast the various Native American cultures from the time of their arrival to their encounter with Europeans
- Demonstrate an understanding of the uses of geography
- Trace the routes and explain the importance of early explorations of the Americas
- Recall the reasons for the voluntary/involuntary settling of North America by Europeans and Africans
- Compare and contrast the lives of European, African, and North American families in various regions in colonial times
- Identify the developments, major events, and notable figures involved in the separation of the thirteen colonies from England
- Explain the origins, types, and functions of government
- State the nation's basic democratic principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence
- Relate the importance of shared values, principles and beliefs of American democracy
- Identify historical figures who shaped American democracy
- Demonstrate an understanding of the world in spatial terms
- Explain the purposes and characteristics of geographic representations such as maps, globes, graphs, diagrams, photographs, and satellite-produced images
- Use appropriate geographic tools and technologies such as reference works to display spatial information on maps and other geographic representations
- Explain connections among places, and describe causes and consequences of spatial interaction among people
- Demonstrate an understanding of places and regions

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of the free market system and the role of governments in the economic development in the United States
- Compare the causes, effects and patterns of human migration and immigration in the United States

ART

Students will:

- Develop the skills necessary for understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes of art
- Develop knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design
- Understand the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
- Appreciate the expression, subject matter, symbols and ideas used in art
- Reflect upon and assess the merits of their work and the work of others
- Perceive the connection between art and other disciplines

COMPUTER

Students will:

- Use and understand basic computer related terms
- Be able to identify and demonstrate appropriate care for computer hardware components
- Be able to create, format, edit and save a word processing document
- Use age appropriate educational software to reinforce skills
- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation
- Be introduced to searching the Internet for information

LIBRARY

In grade four, students become familiar with the reference section of the library. They learn about nonfiction and the ten broad divisions of the Dewey Decimal system. They continue to obtain information from computer catalog.

MUSIC

Students will:

- Sing varied repertoire including rounds, ostinati and two-part singing to include pentatonic, major and minor tonalities (with proper vocal technique)
- Play pitched and unpitched instruments while others sing or play contrasting parts, sometimes with syncopation
- Improvise (in same style), responses to given rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Dramatize music with words and/or appropriate body movements
- Compose short songs or instrumental pieces within specified guidelines
- Identify musical symbols/ terms and interpret them correctly in performance
- Identify by sight and sound a variety of instruments
- Continue study of recorder through reading and playing advanced songs
- Compare and contrast common terms used in the arts (e.g., “texture”, “form”)

- Listen to and identify examples of music from various historical periods and world cultures, describe how the elements of music are used in these
- Sing in a group, in a musical and in response to cues from a conductor, dramatize in a musical setting - solos and spoken dialogue

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will:

- Learn to master locomotion skills
- Learn mature throwing and kicking skills
- Learn to work together
- Learn special awareness
- Learn jumping patterns and rhythm skills
- Learn to chase, flee and dodge
- Learn to use peripheral vision during activities
- Learn ball control and skills for certain sports
- Learn the difference between speed and agility