

FOURTH GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values.

Bible:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) theme for fourth grade is a study of basic doctrines of Christianity, such as the Trinity, salvation, sin nature, and eternity to name a few. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects, and memory verses are integrated into lessons. Students are provided a workbook that includes daily real-life applications and engaging activities.



Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) presents world-class literature, both classic and contemporary works, that are broad in their scope, intellectually challenging, and morally focused. The program is rigorous and engaging, and it thoughtfully explores family values and ethics. Fourth-grade literature displays the beauty of language and the imagery and complexity of fine stories integrating literature and language arts as well. The content fosters thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior.



Grammar & Writing:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum entitled, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style, is a highly structured and powerful methodology of teaching writing, and has students writing daily. Structure refers to organizational models for writing, which are explored and reinforced each year at ever-increasing levels of sophistication firmly internalized by students. The sequence of structural units teaches students a consistent method for composing clear and cohesive paragraphs as well as a reliable system for organizing narrative and expository writing. Style is a collection of tools that students use to achieve variety and competence in expression. It is through the employing of the stylistic techniques that students become competent in using interesting vocabulary, employ a variety of sentence structures, and gain an understanding of grammar. It is through this methodology that the writing process is broken down into clear, easy to understand steps, and students of any ability are able to gain confidence and competence in writing in an organized manner, using strong imagery and examples with cohesive paragraphs. Grammar is taught within the context of good writing and embedded in the writing curriculum.



Handwriting:

Fourth grade continues the use and learning of cursive with emphasis on proper formation of words and practice with ongoing writing assignments.



Spelling:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) Spelling Plus curriculum provides so much more than just spelling. It incorporates grammar, writing, genres of writing and literature, Greek and Latin roots and more. Lessons are developed to meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Lessons provide activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organizes words by their spelling sounds, then adds additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. They also naturally integrate a biblical worldview within lessons and word lists that include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



Math:

ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum incorporates rigorous standards and benchmarks for math literacy and learning, including those of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. It uses a variety of manipulatives, investigation, and modeling to produce students who understand the concepts and can think mathematically. There is an emphasis on a STEM interdisciplinary approach, which integrates Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in hands-on and relevant learning opportunities. It also integrates an authentic biblical Christian worldview perspective of mathematics. The fourth-grade program continue building and expanding on the previous grade level concepts and review previous concepts utilizing lessons with hands-on activities, conceptual understanding, problem solving, application, modeling, reasoning, and strands of algebra and geometry. Fourth grade expands on the third-grade concepts and adds multi-digit multiplication and division.



Science:

Mystery Science and ACSI's (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) curriculum are both utilized throughout the year. Mystery Science will be utilized as the primary curriculum, and is an online, video-based, hands-on curriculum covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical Science. All lessons are aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Each lesson is aligned to a topic, performance expectation, science and engineering practice, disciplinary core idea, and crosscutting concept. Every lesson begins with a mystery to solve and incorporates interesting and informative video clips and hands-on activities that lead students in the doing of science and engineering. A complete kit containing most of the hands-on materials needed for each lesson has also been purchased. ACSI's science program will serve as a supplementary curriculum and provides students with a biblical worldview of science and will supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content. It provides engaging, inquiry-based instruction that develops critical thinking



skills. Lessons offer many hands-on activities engaging students in discovery, exploration, and investigation of God's purposefully designed world.

Social Studies:

Fourth-grade social studies primarily incorporates the study of CA State History, and uses a variety of materials including several historical fiction novels. As time permits, supplementary materials for geography and US History may also be used.

