

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.

Strong emphasis is placed on the application of biblical truths to the daily lives of fourth grade students. There are cross-curricular connections with other academic subjects, and memory verses are integrated into lessons.



Literature:

The Modos Press Literature series through ACSI (Association of Christian Schools Int'l) is used from third through eighth grades and 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 and includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, biographies, drama, and more. 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



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 is the curriculum teachers use to teach spelling. While there are no workbooks, the lessons teachers use from the curriculum meet national language arts standards, current educational philosophy, and best practices. Teachers provide a variety of activities for multiple learning styles, make cross-curricular connections, logically organize words by their spelling sounds, then add additional spelling possibilities as units unfold. Word lists include pattern words, high frequency words, and challenge words.



Math:

Big Ideas Math, Modeling Real Life is a rigorous program that provides a balance of three important building blocks. These are: (1) Conceptual Understanding-Discovering why; (2) Procedural Fluency-Learning how; and (3) Application-Knowing when to apply what has been learned and applying it to real life. Newton and Descartes are a dog and cat team of math assistants who encourage students to think deeply about math concepts and develop strong mathematical mindsets, as well as learning to ask why, and to reason and communicate with others as they learn. Music, games,

and hands-on manipulatives help ensure that math is both fun and understandable. In Fourth Grade students focus on place value concepts, adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers, multiplying one-and two-digit numbers, dividing multi-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, understanding fraction equivalences and comparisons, adding and subtracting fractions, multiplying whole numbers and fractions, relating fractions and decimals, understanding measurement equivalences, using perimeter and area formulas, identifying and drawing lines and angles, and identifying symmetry and two-dimensional shapes.



Science:

Mystery Science 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. Where it is lacking, we ask teachers to provide students with a biblical worldview of science and may supplement or replace some of the Mystery Science content where appropriate.



Social Studies:

Fourth-grade Social Studies splits up the year by incorporating both the study of CA State History and Bob Jones University Press' *Our United States*. CA State History uses a variety of materials including several historical fiction novels and takes several related field trips. *Our United States* presents the cultural geography of the fifty states and five territories as well as an overview of American history. Students will examine the history of each state and territory, and analyze individual actions, pivotal decisions, and cultural movements from a biblical worldview. The course also teaches students to assess the impact of the Christian faith on state and territorial culture, citizenship, environment, and economy.



