

4th GRADE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Students will switch classroom for many of their classes throughout the day. They will travel as a group to the other fourth and fifth grade teachers for language arts, science, social studies, and math.
- In Social Studies, students focus primarily on U.S. history and geography. For example, students complete a region tour to learn about the geography and important history of the 50 United States. Virtual field trips and tours across the country are used to enhance the learning experience. Students actively participate in hands-on activities to better understand specific events in history.
 - Historical concepts acquired in fourth grade will continue into their fifth grade Social Studies class, where students begin their first year of US History—the year 700 to the beginnings of the Civil War.
- In reading the students study a wide variety of fictional and informational texts. Students identify and analyze story themes, character development, plot sequence, and setting. Several novels are read in class throughout the year to develop reading comprehensive skill, including summarizing, inferencing, drawing conclusions, conflict resolution, as well as self, text, and real-world connections.
- Students are given opportunities to discuss and reflect on current news articles on topics related to social studies and science. The election cycles, environmental concerns, space travel, advances in technology, globalization, and real world problems are some of the many topics that are covered in these informational texts.

MATH:

Text: Saxon Math and IXL Online

Our Math text supports and embraces the belief that all students should learn important mathematical concepts and processes with understanding. The objective of each lesson is clearly stated. Instruction and assignments help students gain mastery of concepts and skills.

Curriculum includes:

- Numbers and Operations in Base 10
 - Estimating, Place Value, Operations with Whole Numbers
 - Multiply and Divide, Powers of 10, Divide by 1-digit number
 - Numbers and Operations as Fractions
 - Fractions on a number line, visually, comparing and ordering

- Making Equivalent Fractions & simplifying
 - Add/Subtract: Like Denominators
 - Greatest Common Factor (GCF) and Least Common Multiple (LCM)
 - Mixed Number Addition and Subtraction with Renaming
 - Find a Fraction of Whole Number
 - Relate Fractions to Decimals
 - Comparing and Ordering Decimals
- Geometry
 - Polygons: Quadrilaterals, Triangles, Angels
 - Perimeter & Area
- Measurement:
 - Line Plot, Graphing on Coordinate grid
 - Understanding relative sizes of items in Customary & Metric
 - Converting Customary Units
 - Elapsed Time
- Operations & Algebraic Thinking
 - Solve using a variable, numerical patterns, and analyzing relationship

The use of flashcards for mastery and accuracy is strongly suggested to be done for practice at home.

READING:

The Diocese of Jefferson City sets rigorous standards for reading and writing. Our focus includes:

- Genres include all Fiction, Literature, and Nonfiction
- 7-8 New Vocabulary Words each week
- Listening Comprehension Skills—Read aloud and model oral fluency
- Focus skills
 - Examples: plot, conflict resolution
- Thinking Comprehension Skills
 - Examples: summarizing, questioning, author's purpose

- Novel studies: reinforces comprehension strategies & focus skills, includes weekly vocabulary
- Scholastic News: Nonfiction informational text and Comprehension Packets to help supplement standards
- Book Reports
- Silent Reading Books: All students are expected to have a silent reading book with them at all times
 - Students will take Scholastic Accelerated Reader quizzes after finishing novels

LANGUAGE ARTS/READING:

Language Arts include reading, writing, spelling, handwriting, grammar, and listening skills, study skills, punctuation, speech, usage, and mechanics. A very strong emphasis will be placed on the six traits of writing:

- Narrative
- Explanatory
- Persuasive
- Comparison
- Expository
- Fiction
- Various responses to informational texts

Composition Skills:

- Identify main idea and detail
- Writing leads and endings
- Organization
- Writing dialogue
- Revise and editing

Grammar & Mechanics includes:

- Types of sentences
- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Pronouns

- Adverbs
- prepositions

Building Skills:

- Note taking and summarizing
- Informal outlining
- Vocabulary
- Fact and opinion
- Test taking strategies
- Using reference materials

WRITING:

Students will use writing to convey meaning. They will:

- Use the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, publishing
- Write effectively using words and pictures to convey thoughts
- Write sentences about a topic (opinion, informative, narrative)
- Apply spelling knowledge
- Apply grammar (nouns, verbs, adjectives, contractions) in writing
- Apply mechanics (capitalization, punctuation, complete sentences) in writing
- Apply neat writing of uppercase and lowercase letters and numbers

SPELLING:

Each week we will teach a spelling lesson, and most weeks there will be a written test on Friday. We will stress the recognition of structural similarities or spelling pattern, as well as phonetic similarities. Students are asked to study for weekly spelling tests with a parent. Review tests encompassing the past several lessons will be given at times. In our daily work and homework, correct spelling is encouraged. We will teach it in the writing process (prewriting, writing, revising, proofreading, and publishing).

HANDWRITING:

Our emphasis in Fourth Grade is cursive writing. Cursive writing was introduced and taught in Grade 2 and reinforced in Grade 3. Handwriting will emphasize the correct strokes in writing the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet, and connecting

these letters to other letters to form words. Assignments are to be done in Cursive Writing whenever possible.

RELIGION:

Text: Gospel Weekly

Our goals:

- To develop personal and ongoing relationships with God
- To build reverence for and knowledge of Holy Scripture
- Purposeful emphasis on Catholic practices, images, and models of faith
- Incorporate five forms of prayer in each student's personal devotion
- Encourage family devotion
- Stress Christian values
- Learn how to serve God as an altar server during Mass

SCIENCE:

Text: Scholastic News

Our Science text is aligned with national and state standards. It uses an inquiry approach to explore Science concepts through "hands-on" and "minds-on" activities. Many involve close observation.

Curriculum includes:

Physical Science

- Measuring Matter
- Force and Motion
- Electricity Sound

Life Science

- Plant Structure and Function
- Animal Structure and Function
- Energy in Ecosystems
- Surviving the Environment

Earth Science

- Measuring Weather
- The Makeup of the Earth
- Exploring the Oceans

- Movements in the Solar System

SCHOLASTIC NEWS:

Students will use “Scholastic News” for Current Events. It is a rich source of current issues, and is very enriching for Social Studies and Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

We will learn about the five regions of the United States with an emphasis on States and Capitals. Missouri history will also be a large part of their curriculum. History will be embedded in discussion and virtual tours.

- The Northeast
- The Southeast
- The Midwest
- The Southwest
- The West

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

We attend Music, Art, and Library once a week and Physical Education twice a week. Students have recess twice daily, as well as lunch. Students also perform in the St. Joseph Christmas Concert and the Spring Concert.