



## Fourth Grade Curriculum

**Religion:** The “One in Christ” curriculum from Concordia Publishing House is used for religious instruction. The religion program is centered solidly in Christ, encouraging students to grow in their faith and life with God. Lessons are based on sequential Biblical accounts of the Old Testament, and studies of the life of Jesus through the early Christian church in the New Testament. Key concepts of faith such as Law and Gospel, confession, repentance, grace and forgiveness are expressed within the context of the Biblical events. Each child experiences daily prayer, worship and the study of God’s Word, as well as weekly chapel participation and periodic leadership. The children also study key Bible passages, portions of the Catechism, and selected hymns in St. Peter’s memory work curriculum.

**Language Arts and Spelling:** Fourth grade students study the spelling of words directly and indirectly. There is a list of words to learn each week following a pattern or rule of spelling. That pattern is studied and practiced as it appears in other words. Spelling is guided and emphasized in all writings of the students, and the spelling curriculum is integrated with the reading curriculum.

**Penmanship:** Fourth grade students work toward improving the legibility of their cursive writing. Proper forms of upper case, lower case, and letter joining are practiced. The lessons are arranged in sequence according to similar strokes. Students may choose to use cursive writing in their daily work. Also, D’Nealian manuscript is reviewed and used in schoolwork, as appropriate.

**Language and Grammar:** Through literature, composition, listening, and speaking, the fourth grade students study the English language. Students integrate their study of grammar skills and process writing. Writing experiences begin with descriptive paragraph writing focusing on the paragraph structure. Experiences also include comparison and contrast, creative writing, and persuasive pieces. Personal narratives and cross-curriculum writing with reports and research writing are also developed. The Four Square Model is used across the lower elementary grades.

**Reading:** The fourth grade reading program exposes students to a variety of literary genres such as fables, tall tales, biographies, poetry, science fiction, and autobiographies. Emphasis is on improving comprehension and phonetic skills. Each lesson focuses on a particular reading strategy, comprehension skill, or writing skill. An appreciation of the written word is further encouraged through reading a variety of

trade books, the use of Accelerated Reader and quarterly oral reports. Silent Sustained Reading is practiced, and classic and contemporary literature is read aloud to students regularly.

**Science:** The fourth grade program focuses on life science, earth science, and physical science. Study includes plants and animals, matter and energy, force and motion, properties and patterns of the earth's surface, and human body systems. Proficiency with science is increased. Students apply process skills in cooperative learning and investigative activities.

**Social Studies:** In fourth grade, the students will study the five geographic regions of the U.S., being able then to identify common similarities in these regions and how they affect the people who live there. Students are able to locate each state and know its capital by the end of the year. Christian citizenship is encouraged through discussion of current events and the role of the Christian in our society.

**Math:** In fourth grade we help students master all the basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, using the "Saxon" curriculum. Students then use these facts in word problems and problem solving situations. Higher level addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems are practiced, along with fractions, decimals and percentages. Geometry and basic algebra are also introduced.