

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Religion

Through bible study, activities, prayer, and discussion students will continue to grow in their Christian faith and become more knowledgeable in their understanding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Students will:

- Model Jesus' love and forgiveness to those around them
- Memorize chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism, in addition to bible verses
- Explore and memorize the Ten Commandments
- Participate in worship services
- Attend Chapel services once each week
- Meet with a pastor once a week for instruction
- Integrate the practice of their faith across all curricular areas

Language Arts

Grammar and Writing:

Students will develop methods and styles of both written and oral communication as the appropriate and necessary way to convey their ideas, beliefs, and thoughts to others.

Students will be introduced to the writing process and will:

- Write legibly in print and cursive
- Write well-structured paragraphs
- Identify and use parts of speech in writing tasks
- Type with speed and accuracy on individual Chrome books
- Write multi-paragraph essays and stories on assigned prompts
- Use rules of grammar and supply sentences with adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions
- Write for a variety of purposes such as persuade, inform, and entertain
- Understand and use the Writing Process: Pre-Writing, First Draft (Rough Draft), Edit and Revising, and Publishing
- Follow written and oral directions carefully
- Self-correct their work and also benefit from Peer Editing
- Orally present their work in a confident manner
- Understand punctuation, capitalization, and complete sentence structure
- Participate in small groups and efficiently work well with other.
- Integrate written and oral communication skills into all subject areas
- Increase their vocabulary through our Spelling program, Rebecca Sitton
- Write using descriptive, expository, persuasive, and personal essay styles

Reading:

Students will gain an appreciation for different genres of literature such as realistic fiction, historical fiction, folk tale, play, fantasy, and non-fiction. Students will be given the tools and skills needed to aid in comprehension of all types of literature.

Students will:

- Identify and explain parts of a story: characters, setting, plot, and conclusion
- Recognize and identify the characteristics of different genres
- Understand an author's purpose for writing
- Create and complete graphic organizers, such as Venn Diagrams or T Charts
- Extend their reading experience by inferring, predicting, and drawing on own personal experiences
- Understand and identify cause and effect
- Distinguish between fact and opinion
- Develop healthy reading habits by daily spending fifteen minutes reading during D.E.A.R. Time (Drop Everything And Read)
- Investigate and explore a variety of literature, including fantasy, autobiography, biography, and poetry
- Compare and contrast a novel read in class to its movie production

Mathematics

Fourth Grade students will apply their basic number skills to solve problems through many different means such as text, manipulatives, everyday experiences, and technology.

Students will:

- Continue to develop addition and subtraction skills
- Identify place value through the hundredths
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers
- Begin exploring algebraic expressions
- Round numbers for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Estimate numbers for all four operations
- Describe, use, and complete patterns
- Measure and compare units of length
- Measure capacity and weight in customary and metric units
- Solve multi-step word problems
- Demonstrate a variety of problem solving strategies
- Find the range, mean, median, and mode of a set of data
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators
- Explore decimals (introduction)

Science

Students will, in addition to learning facts about various topics, begin to learn how scientists observe, record, think, and operate safely.

Students will:

- Investigate living things
- Explore ecosystems
- Study matter (states of matter, matter changing state, and chemical properties)
- Study electricity (what it is, static electrical charge, current electricity, magnetism, electrical forces, and electrical safety)
- Develop an understanding of sound
- Investigate light and heat
- Explore weather, storms, and fronts
- Study earth's make-up (its layers, changes in the crust, etc.)
- Develop and implement the Scientific Process
- Participate in Inquiry Science which involves hands-on group activities utilizing the stages of scientific observation and experimentation

Social Studies

Fourth Grade students will participate in an in-depth exploration of the regions of the United States: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, Pacific, and Rocky Mountain Region. Our class also explores Illinois' past and present using "Illinois Dailies" by Carole Marsh.

Students will study the following map skills and concepts:

- Using latitude and longitude to find absolute location
- Reading elevation, land use, and resource maps
- Understanding and reading a time line
- Comparing maps with different scales
- Read many types of maps such as mileage maps, historical maps, and population maps
- Study the geography of the United States of America
- Analyze our nation's economy depending upon location
- Study one state, in depth, through research and then completing and orally presenting a Power Point project to the class

Fine Arts

Art:

Students will improve fine motor skills through detailed drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Students will:

- Be introduced to mediums and new techniques
- Discuss varied artistic styles and create artwork based on those styles
- Learn about principles of art and use in artwork
- Reinforce proper care of art equipment and personal art supplies
- Develop listening skills by following several step directions and working independently
- Create artwork based on color theory and use of values
- Develop composition skills and discuss choices in creating composition

Music:

Fourth Graders will learn songs and liturgical music to assist in leading the liturgy at BLCS.

Students will:

- Sing hymns from the Hymn of the Month Curriculum
- Repeat sung rhythms on neutral syllables
- Identify and sing dotted quarter and eighth notes in 6/8 time
- Improvise the end of two-bar phrases using learned patterns from 2/4, 4/4, and 6/8 time
- Sing simple melodies on solfege
- Listen to played or sung rhythms and echo them back
- Execute vocal warm-ups
- Perform at regularly scheduled church and chapel services throughout the year
- Memorize and perform music that will be sung at our school Christmas Program and Musical

Band (Optional):

Students will be instructed on how to read music and play an instrument of their choice.

Students will:

- Try playing a variety of instruments at the beginning of the school year
- Learn how to read basic music
- Be instructed as to how to properly hold and play the chosen instrument
- Participate in group technique class
- Perform in multiple concerts at Bethany throughout the year

Spanish

Students participate in Language Stars Spanish Program once a week. They will focus on vocabulary such as colors, animals, greetings, etc. Students will also be able to comprehend and speak in small complete sentences/questions.

Second Step

Our school utilizes the Second Step program to introduce and develop social/emotional skills in students of all grades. These skills will help students to be successful in school and in life, as well.

Students will:

- Learn the steps needed to solve problems calmly and responsibly
- Understand what empathy is and how to demonstrate it to others in our world
- Gain knowledge of emotion management

Technology

Technology is used in all curricular areas. Students will be comfortable completing assignments and taking assessments on the computer, as needed. A set of Chrome books will be utilized by students in each grade. Teachers will use the Promethean Board for classroom instruction and interactive learning.

Students will:

- Develop keyboarding skills using Typing.com
- Produce a Power Point presentation complete with transitions, pictures, and the like
- Explore the site, EasyBib.com, to properly cite all sources used in a report or presentation
- Produce and edit a word processed document with the use of Spell Checker
- Understand how to properly name and save a document or presentation to a flash drive

Physical Education

Physical Education is provided twice each week. In addition students are involved in the 26.2 Marathon Program throughout the year. At the end of the year, students participate in the Royal Run/Walk and Field Day activities. We begin the year with an introductory unit that establishes class environment, behavioral expectations and management/organizational protocols.

Students will:

- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Enhance their social and personal development
- Learn to cooperate, take turns and experience personal success through movement
- Be given substantial opportunities to actively engage in moving and learning sport, dance and fitness skills
- Learn the importance of being physically fit

Extra-Curricular Activities

Fourth Graders are able to participate in Cross Country, Track, the Elementary Musical, Schola Choir, and our After School STEM Program. In addition, our school conducts summer basketball camp.

Field Trips and Service Projects

In Fourth Grade, the students will participate in multiple field trips as an enriching way to reinforce classroom learning.

- In the fall, students will study ecosystems and endangered animals at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center in Glen Ellyn.
- In late fall, students will continue their study of Illinois' history by visiting Naper Settlement.
- In the spring, students will see a high school production of a famous musical at Wheaton College. This field trip allows the children to see how acting and music come together.
- In the late spring, our class will take a trip to the Sci-Tech Museum for a demonstration on Electricity and Magnetism. They will also experience the "hands-on" portion of the museum.
- Finally, our class will take a walking trip to the fire station that we sponsor for the entire month. We will receive a tour and ask questions about the life of a fire fighter. We will end by presenting the men and women with a small token of our appreciation for their service to our community.
- Our fourth graders will volunteer at a local shelter or medical housing facility such as "Almost Home Kids."

Homework

Fourth Graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice. Each student is required to complete his/her Assignment Notebook, daily, to keep track of work and tests assigned. Generally, students will be given 45 minutes of homework each day. Upcoming tests and quizzes will be posted on my classroom blog at the beginning of each week.

Parents Can Help By:

- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Checking the classroom blog for the weekly newsletter and other important updates
- Providing your children with a quiet place to study and do their homework

- Encouraging independence and responsibility
- Helping your children develop good study habits
- Monitoring academic progress by reviewing Progress Notes and Report Cards
- Encouraging good nutrition, exercise, and rest