



BETHANY LUTHERAN SCHOOL

FOURTH GRADE OVERVIEW

SUBJECTS TAUGHT DAILY WITH A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE AND WORLDVIEW

RELIGION

Resource: Concordia's Bible History

- Students will be able to understand that the message of the cross is the power of God and that Christ is our salvation, strength, and our refuge.
- Grow in their Christian faith and become more knowledgeable in their understanding of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod through bible study, activities, prayer, and discussion
- Attend weekly chapel, and explore worship and liturgy
- Model Jesus' love and forgiveness to those around them
- Memorize chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism, including the Ten Commandments, and Bible verses
- Meet with Pastor once per week for instruction
- Integrate the practice of their faith across all curricular areas

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading

Resource: Scott Foresman Reading Street

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

- Read and analyze four novels, one each quarter including *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *Indian in the Cupboard*, and *Homer Price*
- Identify and explain parts of a story including characters, setting, plot, and conclusion
- Recognize and identify the characteristics of different genres
- Understand author's purpose for writing
- Create and complete graphic organizers such as Venn diagrams or T charts
- Extend the 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 reading daily for at least 15 minutes (DEAR time)

Writing

Resource: Not So Wimpy Teacher

- Write well-structured paragraphs
- Identify and use parts of speech in writing tasks
- Write multi-paragraph essays and stories on assigned prompts
- Use rules of grammar and punctuation to include complete sentences that utilize adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, and prepositions
- Write for a variety of purposes such as narrative, poetry, expository, compare and contrast, persuasive, and descriptive
- Understand and use the writing process: pre-writing, rough/first draft, edit and revise, publish
- Self correct work and benefit from peer editing
- Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience
- Conduct short research projects using several sources
- Integrate written and oral communication into all subject areas

Phonics/Spelling

Resource: Rebecca Sitton

- Synonyms/antonyms/homophones
- Compound words
- Explore the relationship of letters, patterns, and sounds for reading and spelling
- Master the spelling of high frequency words
- Apply essential rules concepts such as: letter sounds prefixes and suffixes, long and short vowels, spelling patterns, consonant blends, etymologies, irregular spellings, double letters, and plurals
- Develop proofreading skills

Grammar

Fourth grade students continue to strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and spelling skills. They are encouraged to apply these communication skills throughout all subject areas. Students will study:

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar rules and usage when writing and speaking
- Complete sentences
- Nouns (common/proper/possessive)
- Verbs (action/linking/main/helping/irregular)
- Adjectives (comparative/superlative)
- Adverbs
- Pronouns (subject/object)
- Contractions
- Subjects/predicates
- Punctuation/capitalization
- Proofreading
- Daily language review

Listening and Speaking

- Follow written and oral directions carefully
- Orally present work in a confident manner

HANDWRITING

Resource: Handwriting Without Tears

- Write legibly in cursive and in print
- Continue to properly hold writing utensil

MATHEMATICS

Resource: Saxon Math

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 who test well in their MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) Standardized tests, show maturity in completing assignments, and have mastered math skills at current grade level may advance one grade level in math. Decisions are made based on input from both teachers and parents.

- Continue to develop/master addition and subtraction skills
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers
- Identify place value through the hundredths
- Begin exploring algebraic expressions
- Round numbers for addition and 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

SCIENCE

Resource: Scott Foresman Science

Students will learn how scientists observe, record, think, and operate safely as well as learn facts about various topics.

- Understand the design and order of God's creation
- Investigate living things
- Explore ecosystems
- Study matter (states and changes of matter and chemical properties)
- Study electricity (what it is, static electrical charge, currents, magnetism, electrical forces, and electrical safety)
- Study Earth's make-up
- Develop and implement the Scientific Process
- Participate in Inquiry Science which involves hands-on group activities utilizing the stages of scientific observation and experimentation

HISTORY

Resource: BJU Press Heritage 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.

- Study the geography of Illinois and the United States
- Study one state in depth through research. Create a Google Slides presentation, research paper, and display box to present at the Curriculum Fair as well as an in-class presentation
- Learn about American History
- Government: branches of the United States government, voting, and citizenship
- Culture: languages and the adjustment of immigrants in America
- Social Studies: cause & effect, timeline, primary & secondary sources

Specials

ART - TWICE PER WEEK

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

- Learn about artists and their particular style and create artwork to reflect that style
- Study proper use of techniques in various mediums
- Be taught proper care of art equipment and supplies
- Listen and follow multi-step directions independently
- Participate in class discussions on artistic style and use of elements
- Be introduced to composition and use of shape and color
- Cross-curricular art projects tie into the science and social studies curriculum

MUSIC - TWICE PER WEEK

- Sing hymns from the Lutheran Service Book
- Repeat sung rhythms on neutral syllables
- Identify and sing quarter and eighth notes in 2/4 and 4/4 time
- Improvise the end of two-bar phrases using learned patterns including 6/8 time
- Sing simple melodies on solfege
- Listen to played or sung rhythms and echo them back
- Execute vocal warm-ups
- Learn songs, psalms, and liturgical music
- Perform at church and chapel services throughout the year
- Memorize and perform music that will be sung at the school Christmas program and Musical
- Students can participate in band, discussed at length under “Extra-Curricular Activities”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - TWICE PER WEEK

Students K-8 participate in the Royal Run, where they run laps throughout the year totaling 26.2 miles. They also end the year with an outdoor Field Day. We begin the year with an introductory unit that establishes class environment, behavioral expectations, and management/organizational protocols. Fourth Grade primary objectives include:

- Learn and practice Christian sportsmanship
- Learn body and spatial awareness
- Enhance 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 all different sports and fitness skills
- Learn the importance of being physically active and fit

SPANISH - ONCE PER WEEK

Students participate in an active and immersive Spanish program. They focus on vocabulary including colors, animals, greetings, etc. Students will also be able to comprehend and speak in small complete sentences as well as ask questions.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING - ONCE PER WEEK

Resource: Second Step

- Learn the steps needed for learning: focusing attention, listening carefully, and be assertive when asking for help with school work
- Understand what empathy is and how to demonstrate it to others in our world
- Gain knowledge of emotional management
- Explore problem solving techniques
- Discuss bullying and ways to overcome it

LIBRARY - ONCE PER WEEK

Weekly class visits for story time, guidance and exploration of a variety of literature, and print and electronic research in later grades. Introduce students to beloved children's literature and help instill a love of literature. Teach students the importance of reading and help them improve their reading comprehension through various methods and activities.

- Predict events within the story.
- Read the *Blue Fairy* by Andrew Lang which contains most of all the fairy tales that have been retold for over a century.
- Understand that fiction and nonfiction books can be used as resources for recreational reading.

TECHNOLOGY

All student computers are monitored through Go Guardian. We are not a 1-to-1 school, and students do not take home technology. We have class sets of chrome books for grades 3-8. Fourth graders have access to a Google Account, learn to type and format a document, and navigate specific websites. They will also create a Google Slides presentation complete with transitions. The students will also be taught about internet safety and privacy.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Band

The Walther Band Program is optional and available to all 4th -8th Grade students. Instructors travel to Bethany once per week for a before school group rehearsal as well as an individual lesson with each student. In addition to the traditional band instruments, lessons are available for piano and strings, as well. There is also an opportunity for Bethany's band students to join students from other Lutheran Schools in a larger ensemble, which meets at Walther Christian Academy (Melrose Park) on Monday nights. (A separate fee applies.)

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

Schola Cantorum

Schola Cantorum translates from Latin to English as "Singing School." This optional choral ensemble is available to all Bethany School and Church students in Grades 3-8. Students will further develop their musical and vocal abilities under the direction of Bethany's Kantor and other qualified assistants. Rehearsals are once per week after school, and the main performance opportunities are participating in Bethany Church services approximately once per month.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

- Spring Musical (every other year)
- Cross Country
- Track
- Spelling Bee
- Chess Club
- Various camps & clinics throughout the year

FIELD TRIPS & SERVICE PROJECTS

- In the late Fall, students will continue their study of Illinois history by visiting Naper Settlement
- In the Spring, students will see a production of a musical performance. This field trip allows students to see how acting and music can come together.
- The class tours the local fire station #8 and shows appreciation by collecting food items to donate to the men and women
- Students support School Chapel offerings as well as projects organized by the Student Council and Church
- Students correspond with Senior Buddy Bethany Church Members

HOMEWORK

Fourth graders will be assigned homework as needed for practice. Each student is required to complete the assignment notebook on a daily basis to keep track of work and tests assigned. Generally, students will be given 30 minutes of homework.

PARENTS CAN HELP BY

- Praying for you child's growth, development, and relationships
- Modeling active participation in weekly worship and daily devotions
- Checking homework for understanding upon completion
- Fostering independence at home
- Providing a quiet work area with necessary materials and supplies
- Set a time for homework to be completed, reinforce good study habits
- Looking through classroom papers with your child to monitor progress
- Encouraging good nutrition, exercise, and rest
- Reading with your child and listening to him/her read regularly
- Practice memory work, spelling words, and basic facts at home