



FOURTH GRADE

Curriculum Guide

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS OF FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS

1. All memory work is to be learned in all subject areas where required.
 - A. Bible—Weekly memory work, Chapel programs
 - B. Math—Facts and geometric formulas, English and Metric measurements
 - C. History—States and Capitals, Presidents
2. All homework assignments will be completed and turned in on time.
3. Students will show a respectful attitude to fellow students and adults they come in contact with during the school day.
4. Students will exhibit an understanding and working ability to use table manners during lunchtime.
5. Students will adhere to the policies established in the “VisionWay Christian School Handbook for Parents/Students.”
6. Students will conquer study skills and gain knowledge and responsibility of being an independent learner.
7. Students will participate in additional responsibilities as necessary (i.e. flag, lunchroom, recycling.)

GENERAL PROGRAM

Every day begins with Opening Exercises:

Pledge of Allegiance to The American Flag, The Christian Flag, and to the Bible

Daily Prayer

Attendance

Special Announcements

Academic instruction will include:

Bible

Math

Geography

Spelling/Phonics

Language

Science/Health

Reading/Literature

Penmanship

History

Special instruction areas are:

Chapel

Library

Music

Physical Education

Computer

Art

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and Literature

- Oral Reading
- Reading Comprehension
- Speed Reading
- Vocabulary Building
- Literature

Spelling and Poetry

- Weekly word lists based on phonics and spelling rules, challenging words, and vocabulary
- Reinforcement activities
- Reading and study of some poetry

Writing Process

- Sentence structure, kinds of sentences
- Punctuation, capitalization facts
- Abbreviations, possessive words
- Letters—business, friendly, postcards, thank-you notes
- Gathering information
- Writing with detail
- Writing encyclopedia and book reports
- Creative writing
- Dictionary skills

Grammar

- Recognizing and using eight parts of speech
- Diagramming verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs
- Correctly using troublesome words

Penmanship

- Review of cursive writing formation through skill practice, word games, original composition, and sentence dictation.

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

- Map study and Geography lessons
- State history for four weeks
- The Years of Discovery
- The Years of Conquest
- The First Americans
- The English Come to America
- The New England Colonies
- The Middle and Southern Colonies

- A Picture of Colonial Life
- The Great Colonial Life
- State project (completed in and out of school)
- The Great Awakening
- The French and Indian War
- The American War for Independence
- Building a New Nation

- Our Nation Grows
- The Civil War
- New Frontiers
- An Age of Progress
- Beyond Our Boundaries
- The World Wars
- Time for Freedom and Responsibility
- States and Capitals memorized

SCIENCE

Plants

- Plants: Provision for Man and Beast

Animals

- Insects: Miniature Marvels of Creation
- Birds: Winged Wonders—Bird projects to be completed both in and out of school

Matter

- Matter: Water, Air and Weather

Energy

- Energy: Sound and Hearing

Earth and Space

- Geology: Planet Earth
- Oceanography: Wonders of the Sea
- Astronomy: Consider the Heavens

HEALTH

Physical Fitness

- Your Body's Framework
- The Muscle Builder
- Your Breathing Machine

Personal Hygiene

- A Winning Smile
- Your Body's Cover
- Keys to Good Grooming

Interpersonal Relationships

- A Healthier You

MATH

- Place value of whole numbers and decimals
- Mastery of fundamental operations
- Story problems
- Estimating answers
- English and metric measures
- Converting measures within the same system and solving measurement equations
- Roman numerals
- Addition, subtraction, and multiplication involving fractions
- Estimation
- Averaging
- Factoring
- Divisibility rules
- Introduction to decimals
- Making change
- Reading a thermometer
- Solving equations using addition and subtraction axioms
- Graphs and scale drawings
- Basic Geometric shapes
- Perimeter and area
- Using an English and metric ruler
- Time lapse

BIBLE

Fourth grade continues the ACSI Bible program with “Christ and His Word.” Students begin the year with tools for Bible study and then work with traditional doctrinal subjects including God, His Word, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, Salvation, Heaven and Hell. Students gain understanding of these doctrines and learn how to apply them personally.

Weekly Bible verses are memorized using the New International Version.

Bible is taught five days per week. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lessons are taught in the classroom. Chapel on Wednesday is considered the fifth Bible lesson for the week.

SERVICE PROJECT

To reinforce the concept of becoming a Christian servant, the class will be involved in a community service project.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Courage of Sarah Noble—Alice Dalgliesh

The Tower Treasure—Franklin W. Dixon

The Whipping Boy—Sid Fleischman

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe—C.S. Lewis

Sara, Plain and Tall—Patricia MacLachlan

Snow Treasure—Marie McSwigan

The Door in the Dragon’s Throat—Frank E. Peretti

Where the Red Fern Grows—Wilson Rawls

Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective—Donald J. Sobol

Heidi—Johanna Spyri

Little House in the Big Woods—Laura Ingalls Wilder

Souder—William Armstrong

Freckle Juice—Judy Blume

Superfudge—Judy Blume

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing—Judy Blume

The Incredible Journey—Sheila Burnford

Hardy Boy Series—Franklin Dixon

Old Yeller—Fred Gipson

Nancy Drew Series—Carolyn Keene

Island of the Blue Dolphins—Scott O’Dell

Swiss Family Robinson—Johann David Wyss

MUSIC

Music is a part of everyone's life everyday. Our goal is to teach appreciation of music, all forms and types. Our program will introduce children to music representing diverse cultures and styles. Those being: traditional, patriotic, holiday and religious.

Recognizing that there are many different ways to give children understanding and appreciation of music, there is a wealth of varied activities. Among these are: singing, listening, playing age appropriate instruments, identify differences in elements and expressive qualities between fast and slow tempo, loud and soft dynamics, high and low pitch/direction, long and short duration, same and different form, tone color or timbre, and beat, playing age appropriate music games to reinforce lessons, simple lessons on reading and writing notation.

Music-reading skills are developed in the context of musical experiences. Music-reading skills have important carryover value. They can help children learn language reading skills: i.e. recognizing configuration of melodic patterns is a skill similar to recognizing configuration of words.

Fourth grade students will participate in the Christmas program each year. Other programs could include Celebration of the Arts or a seasonal program. This would be at the discretion of the director.

ART

Art becomes a part of everyday life through TV, magazines, and newspapers. Our goal at VisionWay Christian School is to teach students to appreciate art in all its forms. This year your child will learn about:

1. Mosaic pictures—Learning to make a picture using different colored squares.
2. Pencil drawings—Learning to use more detail and to draw a whole picture using a grid and without a grid.
3. Famous Artists—Introduction to different artists and using their style of art, but the students own ideas and imagination.
4. Working with clay
5. Using and drawing everyday items
6. Working with various mediums.

All of these will help your child realize there are many different forms of art in the world and hopefully come to love art.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The purpose of a physical education program at this grade level is to provide for and allow children the experiences that contribute toward the maximum learning potential of each student. The program is child-centered and recognizes that play is the primary avenue through which learning occurs. Motor development is emphasized through experiences involving fine and gross muscular control.

In second through eighth grades, a greater importance is placed on group activities and team organizational skills than in prior grades. The students are involved in many organized sports and are instructed in the proper way to handle equipment that is related to that sport, including jump rope, physical fitness programs, and fifth-eighth grades are introduced to volleyball.

All of this will help the child develop physically and encourage a lifetime of activity and health.