

Fourth Grade

This curriculum overview has been prepared to assist you in gaining an understanding of what students at this grade level are taught. Teachers and other school staff are prepared to present a balanced instructional program and establish an environment conducive to learning. The purpose is to answer several common questions...

*“What will my child be taught in this grade?”
“What makes this grade unique?”*

We hope you find the information helpful in answering your questions. For more detail, we encourage you to talk to the teacher of a particular grade or the school’s principal.

? *What is curriculum and why is it important for you to know anything about it? Is it really all that helpful for me as a parent to know what is being taught?*

Curriculum is described as “what we teach” while instruction is described as “how we teach it.” The distinction of the Christian School, however, is found in the one element that is central to both these concepts - the Bible. What is taught and how it is taught revolves around God’s revelation as seen in His Holy Scriptures. With that in mind, this pamphlet contains the “basic” curriculum taught in a particular grade, that is the minimum expectations for what students are expected to learn. Of course, the minimum is not all that is taught.

Each teacher expands upon the minimum with his/her own spiritual, professional and personal experience, expertise, interests, or hobbies to develop an outstanding learning opportunity for students in the classroom. This instructional component is further expanded by the use of text materials, technology, field trips, guest speakers, and parental input along with additional resource material to provide each student with the best possible opportunity to learn the required content.

Spanish

The Spanish curriculum for fourth grade combines cultural studies with expansion of vocabulary and conversation skills. In addition, students engage in study of parts of speech and written language. The method of instruction combines the use of visual vocabulary cards, listening activities, and grammar practice. The intent is to build basic conversation skills with Spanish.

Library

The student will

- Build on previous year’s skills
- Expand knowledge of Dewey Decimal System
- Enhance knowledge of Newbery Award Books
- Enhance knowledge of Christian authors such as Frank Peretti, Jerry Jenkins and Janette Oke
- Be introduced to the use of almanac resources and electronic databases.
- Develop an understanding of types of fiction as determined by curriculum
- Become independent users of the computerized catalog
- Develop a love of reading and understand the benefits of reading as a life-long skill

Physical Education

The goal of the PE staff at Christian Academy is to help students achieve their physical best through the use of games, sports, and special activities. Students will participate in Presidential Fitness Testing, which measures endurance, abdominal and arm strength, flexibility, and agility. Following directions and participation are encouraged as well as good fitness habits, sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork.

Resources & Textbooks

- Spelling - *Zaner Bloser*
- Reading - *Foundations and Frameworks*
- Handwriting - *Handwriting Without Tears*
- Grammar and Writing - *Being A Writer & ABEKA*
- Math - *Go Math! by Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt*
- Science - *BJU Press*
- Social Studies - *Claremont Press*
- Bible - *ACSI / Purposeful Design*
- Bible - *New International Version*
- Spanish - *EMC - SymTalk*
- Music - *Game Plan*

In addition, teacher created materials are used.

Field Trips and Special Events

Field Trips and Special Events

Individual classes go on specific field trips and participate in special events that coordinate with their curriculum units. Examples of typical field trips and special events include:

- Fort Harrod
- Perryville Battlefield
- In-class Virtual Field Trips
- Service Projects
- Kentucky Day



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Bible

The fourth grade Bible curriculum focuses on the doctrines of the church. Students study the qualities of God; that he is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. Students also learn the nature of humans; created in God's image, yet having a sin nature. The Bible is revealed as the inspired, enduring truth of the LORD. Students also learn about the role of the Holy Spirit and the Body of Christ. The spiritual disciplines of prayer and meditation on the Word are introduced in order to remain close to build a relationship with Jesus Christ. Students are expected to recite and explain assigned memory verses each week. Projects, quizzes, and other assignments are also designed to help students learn biblical principles and content.

Chapels

The student will

- Join either a 3-5 grade level group or a K-5 group in a weekly chapel time for worship, drama, and sharing of a biblical application.
- Be challenged by guest speakers to live out their faith in their own personal expression.

Service Projects

The student will participate in class-specific and school-wide service projects designed to help students follow biblical principles to serve others and benefits the community as an expression of God's love and concern.

Language Arts

The reading curriculum consists of small group instruction, vocabulary development, and learning to organize thinking through the use of visual tools. Reading units focus on character, cause/effect, plot, main idea, setting, drawing conclusions, compare/contrast, and problem solving. Teachers review and build on skills previously taught.

Students are taught spelling, penmanship, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization skills appropriate for their grade level. They use these skills in writing personal narratives, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and functional writing.

Curriculum stresses:

- Vocabulary
- Word Patterns
- Dictionary Skills
- Process Writing
- Cursive Penmanship
- Parts of Speech
- Grammar
- Outlines
- Book Reports
- Summarizations

Social Studies

Students will study Kentucky history and geography, and Kentucky's role in the history of America.

- Kentucky History
- Regional Geography
- U.S. History: From the early colonies through the Civil War
- Map and Globe Skills
- Current Events
- Research
- Kentucky government

Mathematics

Students develop mathematical thinking in three areas, conceptual understanding, procedural knowledge and problem solving. The math program incorporates hands-on activities, technology applications, expression of math using pictures, explanation and symbols, as well as vocabulary development. Calculators and computers are utilized.

Curriculum highlights:

- Place value concepts to 1,000,000
- Multiple-digit addition & subtraction, multiplication, long division
- Metric and standard measurements
- Equivalent fractions & related decimals
- Adding & subtracting decimals and money
- Estimation and math strategies
- Area of squares & rectangles, capacity
- Time & making change with money
- Mathematic properties and expressions
- Statistics, graphing and probability
- 2D & 3D geometry

Science

Students are taught units that incorporate Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and Scientific Thinking. Teachers involve students in learning activities that include hands-on experiences. The program stresses gathering and recalling information, understanding and interpreting information, and applying information to new situations.

Curriculum highlights:

- Force and Motion
- Electricity and Magnetism
- Weathering and Erosion
- Earth's Resources
- Living Things, Plants, Insects, Spiders
- Bones and Muscles

Fine Arts

Music

The curriculum for music seeks to develop and encourage students to use their musical talents to worship God, as well as reinforce and nurture development in language skills, listening and self-expression.

Curriculum highlights:

- Music History and Style Characteristics
- Metrical organization and changes of meter
- Playing of various percussion instruments, including Orff instruments
- Introduction to the Recorder as a means of learning to read and play music alone and with others

Art

Students will use a wide variety of media with emphasis upon non-verbal expression of individuality. The Art curriculum seeks to encourage creativity, problem solving and self-expression.

Computer

The computer/technology curriculum incorporates 21st century skills. Students are presented with instruction, lessons and projects designed to foster thinking in the following areas: creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving and decision making; and digital citizenship. Students continue to improve basic computer skills through activities that include keyboarding, creation and manipulation of spreadsheets, word processing, creation and manipulation of presentation software, as well as Christ-like use of internet for research.