

ST. ANNE & ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Reading: The fourth grade reading program is composed of two parts.

The SRA Reading Laboratory is used to practice skills and provide individual progress for each student. Students advance reading levels at their own pace.

Children's Literature is the main core of fourth grade reading. The class reads at least 8 selections of award winning children's literature. Students read the books in a teacher-guided climate. Character traits, fluent reading, comprehension and vocabulary development are emphasized.

Spelling: The weekly spelling lists are made up of words from other subject areas and from the Sitton list of the most widely used words. Activities throughout the week, aid in learning the spelling, usage and meaning of the words. The weekly mastery test is given on Friday.

Language Arts/English: The fourth grade uses the **Voyages in English** program by Loyola Press. This program is known for its strength in grammar usage and writing skills. Along with this program the students explore and perfect their writing skills in the many different genres of written communication. Daily journals are part of the daily Language Arts curriculum. Persuasive essays, responses to literature, informational writing and narratives are also parts to this challenging program.

Handwriting: The students continue to refine their cursive and manuscript penmanship in the Zaner Bloser style. Written work in the fourth grade is expected to be written in cursive. Proper formation of letters, spacing and clarity are mastered by the end of fourth grade.

Science: The Harcourt Science Series serves as the foundational resource to meet the goals and content standards of the National Science Education Standards. Along with this challenging program students are taught how to form a theory, conduct an experiment, and record the results. This project is part of a regional independent school district's Science Fair. Science is a full year course that allows time for labs and experimentation.

Religion: The school day begins with prayer in our daily all school assembly. The children recite the Blessings for before and after meals. The end of the school day is closed with a prayer. Along with prayer, the classes are expected to participate in school wide service projects. Collecting canned food for the local pantry, singing at a local nursing home and decorating Christmas bags for the deployed military are just a few of the things the students do. The fourth graders have a very special service project, which is just their own - tending the Children's Mary Garden. The textbook **Faith First** is the basis for instruction. The fourth grade edition explores the early years of the Church but

also introduces the students to current social issues. The children attend Mass on Wednesday morning. Throughout the year they take active roles in the liturgy such as, reading, singing in the choir, offertory procession and commentator. Fourth graders also have the opportunity to become altar servers.

Social Studies: The Social Studies program is kept current by using " Social Studies Weekly." This is a periodical that is used as a text to meet and surpass state standards. Along with its study of the USA from the beginning to the late 1800's, current news happenings are connected to the past. Students learn that the study of history is a way to learn from the past. So we as citizens of the USA can make a better future for others and ourselves.

Mathematics: The fourth grade uses one of the newest programs available - the Pearson Program. Through this program not only are standards met and surpassed but also challenging materials are presented that take the study of mathematics to a new level. Students are also expected to explore the many additional learning materials presented to them online. Fourth graders have opportunities for lesson review, practice, test taking and games using the Pearson web site.

Music, Art, Physical Education, Computer and Library: Classes in these areas are attended weekly. Specialists in these fields of study provide the instruction to the students.

Spanish: Northern Arizona University's Elementary Spanish DVD series is viewed weekly.