

Social Studies

Fourth grade students will develop an awareness of themselves and people around them. The focus is on:

- Immigration
- Regions of the U.S., the 50 states and capitals and Canada
- Geography/map skills
- Government
- Illinois history
- Meeting needs through goods and services

Physical Education

Fourth grade students will learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. The focus is on:

- Maintaining personal fitness
- Developing muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility
- Using rules and strategies of sports and games
- Demonstrating sportsmanship and participation in sports and games

Music

Fourth grade students will have the opportunity to participate in musical activities and to develop an appreciation for music. The focus is on:

- Singing in groups
- Reading basic musical notes
- Distinguishing various types of musical instruments and elements
- Learning a simple musical instrument

Art

Fourth grade students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms. The focus is on:

- Using elements and principles of art to express ideas
- Interpreting artistic products and experiences
- Learning how art reflects and shapes society and life

Evaluation

Edline will be used to update grades. Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled in November, but can be requested at anytime.

Students will receive a report card at each of the four marking periods.

Homework

Fourth grade students will be assigned homework as needed for practice and reinforcement as well as for the completion of special projects.

Parents can help by:

- Modeling active participation in weekly liturgy, daily prayer, and service
- Showing an interest in homework and school activities
- Providing a quiet place and sufficient uninterrupted time to do school work
- Encouraging good nutrition, rest and exercise
- Staying in touch with the school

This curriculum guide provides a glimpse of goals and activities.

For more comprehensive information, please contact the school principal.

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ST. MATTHEW PARISH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

FOURTH GRADE

A POSITIVE INVESTMENT IN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE



Religion

Fourth graders will learn through stories, activities, Scripture, prayer, discussion and reflection about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas. The focus is on:

- God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- Planning, assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship
- Sacraments
- Service
- Liturgical seasons
- Morality
- Church structure
- The Beatitudes
- The Ten Commandments

Language Arts/Reading

The Language Arts program includes reading, writing, speaking, listening and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading/Literature

Through the series, children experience literature in the form of poetry, folktales, nonfiction, fiction, fantasy and plays. Reading fluency will develop and improve. The focus is on:

- Identify key ideas and supporting details
- Analyze the structure of texts
- Interpret word meanings
- Integrate previous knowledge to evaluate content of text
- Draw inferences from text
- Read and comprehend grade level text
- Use grade level word analysis to decode content words

Writing

Fourth grade students will use writing to convey meaning. The focus is on:

- Write various forms of text such as informative, persuasive and descriptive writings
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization depict planning, revising and editing
- Conduct short research projects
- Demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage including capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure and proper use of various parts of speech

Listening/Speaking

Fourth grade students will listen for understanding, follow directions and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. The focus is on:

- Presenting material orally
- Making presentations to individuals and small groups
- Participating in small and large group discussions
- Expressing ideas clearly when speaking
- Giving oral book reports

Technology

St. Matthew follows the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. We believe that students must have regular opportunities to use technology to develop skills that encourage personal productivity, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration in the classroom and in daily life. The focus is on:

- Use digital-imaging technology to modify or create works of art for use in a digital presentation
- Recognize bias in digital resources while researching issues with guidance from the teacher
- Select and apply digital tools to collect, organize and analyze data to evaluate theories or test hypotheses
- Conceptualize, guide and manage individual or group learning projects using digital planning tools with teacher support
- Gather data, examine patterns and apply information for decision making using digital tools and resources

Mathematics

Fourth grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve problems through the use of the text Math 4 by McMillian/McGraw Hill, extended activities and hands on experience. The focus is on:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns
- Generalize place value understanding the multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Build fractions from unit fractions
- Understand decimal notations for fractions and compare decimal fractions
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of angles and measure angles
- Draw and identify lines and angles and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles

Science

Fourth grade students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They will learn through observing, predicting, questioning and explaining.

The focus is on:

- Explaining the relationships of living things to their environment
- Identifying constellations & planets
- Describing factors affecting the ecosystems
- Identifying the importance of water to living things — water cycle
- Measuring & predicting weather
- Identify systems of the human body and their jobs
- Recognize cells as building blocks of life