

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Subjects of Study:

Catholic Formation

Students will:

- Learn of God's plan to save His people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage to Heaven through His word, His law and His Church through the study, understanding and explanation of
 - stories of the Old Testament leading up to the life of Christ: the fall of man; the sin and suffering of mankind; God chooses His people and their leaders
 - the works and teachings of Christ in His ministry here on Earth as well as the message learned from each Bible reading: History changes when Jesus the King comes
 - grace, especially the Sacraments, we receive the strength to do good
 - Church celebrations and seasons according to the Liturgical Calendar
 - one's Christian mission to love and serve others and understand our purpose and goal in life
 - God's plan in history and in society which leads us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home

Reading

Students will:

- Read fluently with expression
- Apply phonetic and decoding skills in sounding out words
- Learn and effectively apply a variety of reading strategies for comprehension, including making a mental picture, categorizing information, clarifying by asking questions, remembering critical details, identifying author's purpose, sequencing the main idea, retelling the story in their own words, making inferences, making predictions, drawing conclusions, expressing points of view, determining the importance of a piece of literature, synthesizing
- Focus on the development and mastery of story elements such as characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, cause and effect, compare and contrast, fact or opinion
- Study a variety of literary genre such as fairy tales, fables, novels, short stories, biographies, poems, and historical fiction
- Memorize selected passages such as famous speeches, scripture and definitions to vocabulary
- Participate in shared inquiry literature to develop critical thinking, writing and interpretive reading

Critical Thinking

Students will:

- Ask questions
- Support ideas with reference to texts or sources of information
- Understand that some questions have more than one possible answer
- Revise and improve on initial answers

Grammar and Writing

Students will:

- Write a complete sentence with appropriate subject and predicate, grade level appropriate spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Identify eight parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections
- Write neatly in complete sentences and answer questions fully (restate question)
- Recognize and use various types of sentences
- Develop a well-written paragraph(s) with a topic sentence and details to support the main idea
- Understand the writing process: prewriting, revision, proofreading, and publishing
- Use a variety of methods to assist in the writing process such as key word outlines, word webs, and story maps

- Further develop and master types of writing including but not limited to personal narrative, descriptive and expository, comparison and contrast, cause and effect
- Write a three- paragraph informational report using one text source (introduction, body, conclusion)
- Write a three-paragraph persuasive essay

Math

Students will:

- Master basic math skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Practice math timed tests of basic facts (60 facts in 2 minutes)
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide (up to six figures) with regrouping
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators and unlike denominators
- Understand place value to the millions
- Solve 4-step mental math problems
- Study, practice, and solve equations based on specific grade level concepts, including 2-step word problems, finding averages, comparing fractions, multiplying fractions, finding area/perimeter/volume, working with decimals and currency, understanding and determining probability and ratios

Science

Students will:

- Further develop understanding of scientific process, inquiry and reasoning
- Practice the scientific method using hands-on activities and experiments
- Study natural resources and renewable energy
- Study cells and heredity
- Study animal classification
- Study concepts of physical science such as electricity, light and sound, circuits
- Study weather, air currents, oceanography, Earth structure, space travel, chemistry and plate tectonics
- Computer coding using Swift Playground and Spherobots

Social Studies

Students will:

- Focus on State of Texas history and geography
- Learn the origins and cultural practices of the early people who settled in TX
- Study the life of Native Americans (who lived in the state) and their lives a century ago
- Explore the reasons for settlement and the ways in which early explorers and settlers adapted to, used, and changed the natural environment of Texas
- Analyze the geographic, economic, and religious reasons that brought the first explorers and settlers to TX, who they were and why they settled
- Review famous explorers to the state of TX; cultural and ethnic groups who settled in TX
- Review when TX was admitted to the Union including important dates, events, and people
- Discuss specific historic conditions in relation to the rest of the country as the state was developing
- Review the contemporary history of TX including important dates, events, significant people and places
- Identify state symbols, bird, song, tree and flower
- Discuss the TX state economy, natural resources, trade, employment, and economic development
- Identify types of industry, major products, trade and state government
- Discuss state geography including physical features such as landforms, vegetation, climate and the origin of the names of place, rivers, cities, and counties
- Review human features such as important buildings statues, and monuments in the state's history
- Further develop understanding of maps and globes including continents, landforms, mountains, valleys, bodies of water, political boundaries, cities, and terms such as legend, scale, compass, cardinal and intermediate directions, hemispheres, meridians, parallels, longitude and latitude, geographical features and patterns, spatial organization of people, places, and environment
- Identify and use physical, political and thematic maps

- Identify criteria that gives regions of North America identity, such as human actions that modify the physical environment and their consequences, physical environment and its effects on human life and activities, human systems in response to conditions in the physical environment, renewable and non-renewable resources

Fourth grade students also attend classes in Art, Latin, Physical Education and Formation

Latin

Not every foreign language class immerses students in the origins of Western Language and Civilization. Young scholars at THS find a sure foundation in their study of Latin, the origin of 60% of the English language and of many of the finest and highest elements of our culture, heir of the Western Roman Empire. Class begins each day with a song in Latin, often times hundreds or over a thousand years old. In class, students learn about the ancients, from their language and grammar to their myths and way of life. In the end, they discover that a culture that at first may seem long ago and far away in fact deeply shapes the world in which they live and dwell today. THS's motto is "Semper Altius." In Latin, we learn what this means.

Art

4th Grade: It is an exciting year in 4th Grade Art. Throughout the year we explore art principles (line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space). We will be learning about the artists that used these principals and about the work they created. For example they will make a clay pinch pot to study form, a peace window like Marc Chagall's to study color and many other fun creations that they will be proud of.

Physical Education

The physical educational program that's designed for lower school students will be a program of individual and team activities that will focus on fitness, coordination, and character building. Through class activities and instructions students will be given the opportunity to learn how to stretch & warm-up, throw & catch, balance and coordination, and a variety of sports. This program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation for activity and physical fitness through cardio, aerobics, and mini-games of fitness. We focus on character building by creating an environment that can showcase sportsmanship and team work.

Aftercare Program

The Highlands School Aftercare Program provides each child with the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic through allotted homework times, trying to instill independence in problem-solving and time management while still aiding the students as necessary to the best of the staff's abilities. In addition to this work ethic, the students are encouraged to socialize not only with their classmates but with children in other grades, extending their bonds and friendships to others with similar interests and enabling them to interact with various age groups in a comfortable, friendly environment. The students are able to interact both in centers—the games and other crafts the students may play each day—and in outdoor activities from tag to soccer to football, weather permitting. The Aftercare Program has daily prayers that often allow the students to voice their own prayer intentions and thus practice praying for those in need within the community. As a whole, the Aftercare Program is dedicated to the development of the students in its care: academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.