

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM GUIDE

RELIGION – Spirit of Truth Program

- Students focus on the moral life.
- What it means to be created in the image and likeness of God, and how we should respond to His grace so we can spend eternity with Him in Heaven.
- Conscience formation, the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Golden Rule, and the Great Commandment.
- The reality of sin and the necessity of virtue.

READING

- Read fluently with expression.
- Apply phonetic and decoding skills in sounding out words.
- Learn and effectively apply a variety of reading strategies for comprehension.
- Visualize details of a passage.
- Categorize information.
- Clarify by asking questions.
- Recall critical details.
- Identify the purpose.
- Sequence main idea.
- Retell source text in your own words.
- Make inferences.
- Make predictions.
- Draw conclusions.
- Identify points of view.
- State the author's purpose.
- Focus on the development and mastery of story elements: characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, cause and effect, compare and contrast, fact or opinion.
- Study a variety of genres. These may include: fairy tales, fables, novels, short stories, biographies, poems, and historical fiction.
- Memorize poetry and selected passages from famous speeches, and scripture.
- Determine vice/virtue depicted in the story and how this applies to daily life.



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CRITICAL THINKING

- 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/ WRITING – Voyages in English Program

- Write a complete sentence using appropriate subject and predicate, grade level spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc.
- Identify the eight parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections.
- Write neatly in complete sentences and answer questions fully by restating the question.
- Recognize and use various types of sentences.
- Develop well-written paragraph(s) with topic sentence and details to support the main idea.
- Implement the writing process: outlining, prewriting, revision, proofreading, and publishing.
- Types of writing developed and mastered may include personal narratives, descriptive and expository writing, and comparison and contrast papers.

MATH – BJU Math 4

- Mastery of basic math skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division (up to six figures) with regrouping.
- Adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators.
- Place value to the hundred millions.
- Solve four step mental math problems.
- Students must be able to study, practice, and solve equations based on concepts in the Fourth-Grade curriculum (solving two-step word problems, finding averages, comparing fractions, multiplying fractions, finding area, perimeter, volume, working with decimals and money, probability and ratios, long division).

HISTORY

- Texas History and Geography
- Learn the origins and cultural practices of the early people who settled in TX



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- 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

SCIENCE

- Scientific reasoning and inquiry
- Biology
 - Animal cells
 - Plant cells
 - Fungus cells
 - Eukaryotic cells
 - Prokaryotic cells
 - Classifying Organisms
- Botany
 - Plant life
 - Life cycles of Gymnosperms and Angiosperms
- Zoology



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- Characteristics and classification of Animals
- Ecology
 - Characteristics of different Ecosystems
- Physics
 - Types of Energy
 - Electricity

EVALUATIONS

- Daily informal assessments (teacher observation, class participation, oral quizzes, and group work).
- Weekly tests in Spelling and Math.
- Mathematics, Grammar and Reading are cumulative and ongoing.
- Study guides for tests are given as needed.
- Tests can include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and an occasional essay (paragraph).
- Projects and book reports are assigned with advance notice.
- Directions for projects are given in advance.

STUDY SKILLS AND HOMEWORK

A successful fourth grader will become a self-motivated learner by praising him for showing initiative towards his studies and homework. The goal is for the student to become reliable, responsible, and independent. Excellent organizational skills provide a strong foundation for success.

- Stay on task for a period of 40-45 minutes.
- Learn to transition quickly between classes or subjects.
- Have all materials ready for each class.
- Follow all directions and instructions given by teachers.
- Ask questions, and take initiative; answer thoroughly in complete sentences.
- Write assignments in the assignment book correctly. Gather and organize necessary homework materials to take home.
- Students are expected to complete their homework independently.
- Turn in homework on the day it is due.
- Establish when and where homework is to be done. Keep supplies at hand to minimize distractions.
- Remember the SQ3R approach for comprehending material (Survey the main headings, turn the headings into a Question, then Read, Recite the answers to the question, and Review).



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- Keep a home calendar with important dates and events that apply to schoolwork: due dates, tests, specials, projects, etc.
- Keep a folder at home where important material is kept for future review in preparing for tests.
- Monitor the progress of long term assignments.
- The amount of time spent on homework is heavily dependent upon the individual child. On a typical night, the student may spend 45-60 minutes, plus additional time for reviewing math facts, and outside reading.
- Classes include Religion, Math, Writing, Grammar, Spelling, Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

SPECIALS

- Latin and the Roots of English – 1 time per week
- PE – 2 times per week
- Art – 1 time per week
- Library – 1 time per week
- Media Arts – 1 time per week

4th GRADE PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENTS

- Saint Report
- Science Project

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parents should be available to assist their child when questions arise. However, it is very important children develop strong, independent work and study skills as the year progresses. Parents are reminded that when students make a mistake, this is an opportunity to learn. School work is the child's responsibility and a vehicle for growth and maturity. These are gradual processes, and patience and support will prove to be invaluable tools.

Allow your child to take on personal responsibilities with a set structure at home, and accept the rewards and consequences for their actions (packing backpack and placing it in the same location, packing lunches and snacks, putting assignments into the correct school folders, returning library books on the assigned days, laying out the uniform for school before bedtime, and setting their own alarm).

- Class begins promptly at 8:05 a.m. Arrive at least fifteen minutes early to provide adequate time for your child to prepare for their day (unpack backpack and lunch, turn in homework, organize books, copy assignments, complete morning seatwork, etc.).
- Avoid walking your child to their classroom after the first week of school, unless they need assistance carrying something heavy or awkward.
- In terms of discipline, please support the efforts of the teacher. If you disagree with the teacher's discipline measure, please discuss this with the teacher. Disagreeing with the teacher in front of your child may undermine the teacher's authority.



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- Above and beyond homework, it is extremely important to drill math facts with your child until answers are accurate and automatic.
- When reading to or with your child, stop and ask questions about what they read, and ask them to predict what they think will happen next. Ask about lessons learned from the stories you read which helps to promote active thinkers not passive listeners.
- Selectively minimize television and computer games especially on school days. Always be mindful of the TV programming and electronic games your child is viewing. Promote active outdoor play, arts and crafts for a creative outlet, and encourage use of their imagination in their play with others.
- Communicate with your child's teacher any questions or concerns you may have. You are your child's first educator and his/her teacher will support you in that role.

