

Grade 4 Curriculum

4th Grade Overview: *Fourth grade is a major step for students to become independent learners. Much of the teacher directed activity is gradually replaced by more student initiated and directed work. Building on the third grade introductions to organizations and self-discipline, this grade takes student to a higher level of thinking.*

RELIGION

The fourth grade Religion curriculum uses *Voyages – Exploring God’s Word* developed by Concordia Publishing House. Throughout the year, biblical stories such as Creation, the Flood, the Exodus, and Jesus birth are covered. Accounts of Jesus Christ, such as various miracles, the Passion, the Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost are studied. Along with the weekly lessons, passages from Scripture are memorized then recited or written for a memory grade.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Grammar

The grammar section of language arts is based on the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *Language Arts* series. It is broken into thematic units. Effective and correct English grammar is enforced and studied. Proper use of the various parts of speech as well as capitalization and punctuation usage are all taught, studied, and used. During each of the units, various writing assignments are given. The students produce different types of writing (reports, responses, poetry, expository, narrative, and figurative writing) while using the writing process of plan-draft-revise-edit-publish and share.

Reading

The reading curriculum is based on the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *Treasures* series. It consists of language-based thematic chapters of various genres, including lessons in reading literature, reading comprehension skills, writing, vocabulary, and spelling. Students focus on essential reading skills, i.e. making

inferences, drawing conclusions, active reflection, and identifying author’s point of view. The students expand their language usage through six units of vocabulary, interdisciplinary reading, grammar-based lessons, and spelling. Self-selected reading (SSR) is a daily event in which the teacher reads to the students and students have time to read self-selected books. There is a book report over different genres each quarter.

Spelling

The spelling curriculum is taken from the *Treasures* reading series. The students have a weekly focus on words based on the story they are reading. Phonics and word patterns are taught based on these words. Weekly spelling test are given on these word lists.

MATH

The math curriculum is based on the Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley *Mathematics* series. It begins with numeration theory and number systems. Students review and expand upon place value through rounding, ordering numbers, and estimation. Multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are taught in great detail. Entry-level algebra is introduced and continues to be reviewed throughout the year. Addition and subtraction of fractions are part of the curriculum as well.



ART

The art curriculum is based on several different art curriculum programs as well as a St. Louis Art Museum developed unit. Art disciplines deal in five specific areas: drawing, painting, 3D/crafts, seasonal and artist study. The museum based program integrates the arts into the students' daily curriculum. The students view and create art, study maps and read and write stories to forge connection between art, people, cultures, and ideas. The class visits the art museum and studies a variety of collection of art that spans a range of culture from around the world.

HANDWRITING

The handwriting curriculum is based on Jan Z. Olsen's *Handwriting Without Tears*. This is the year for cursive mastery. The students learn to assess and what is needed in the skill of handwriting. The stages of learning are done through imitation (writing after a live demonstration), copying (writing form a model), and independent writing (writing without any assistance or models).



HEALTH

The curriculum for health is based on *Health and Wellness* by Macmillan / McGraw-Hill. Lessons are presented with age-appropriate content readers as well as integrating supplemental material. Topics covered are: Mental, Emotional, Family, and Social Health, Growth and Nutrition, Personal Health and Safety, Drugs and Disease Prevention, and Community and Environmental Health.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies curriculum is based on the Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *Our Country's Regions* series. It helps the student progress from self to world-wide awareness. The six regions of the United States (Southwest, Southeast, Northeast, Middle West, Mountain States and the West) are studied by focusing on three major topics from each region: environment, history, and economy. Within this curriculum, geography, climate, people, historical events, worldwide connections and map reading are introduced and tested. Lewis and Clark and their historic explorations are emphasized culminating with a field trip to the Jefferson Memorial Expansion Museum.



4th Grade Teacher, Mrs. Connie Colloton - I graduated from SIU Edwardsville with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education. I also attended Harris Stowe University for 2 years in 2004/2005 with an emphasis on Elementary Education. I have been blessed to be working at Word of Life for the past 17 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. I have been a member at Ascension Lutheran Church for over 25 years. I have two beautiful girls aged 19 and 23 attending the University of Missouri at Columbia.

OUR MISSION: Word of Life Lutheran School is committed to providing a high quality educational program in an environment where Christ prevails, where a child's human and spiritual needs are met, and where love, dignity and professional accountability are valued promoted and implemented.