

FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM

RELIGION

CREED

The student will be able to:

Identify ways God makes himself known to us

- Discover ways God reveals himself to us
- Highlight how God most fully reveals himself in Jesus
- Understand why God gives us the gift of faith
- Describe how the Catholic Church professes its faith in words and actions

Discover the Bible

- Explain that the writings of the Bible are “holy writings”
- Identify the Old and New Testament
- Appreciate the importance of the Bible
- Discover why the Arc of the Covenant was so important to the Israelites
- Identify vocations as a call from God

Discover what it means to believe in God the Father

- Point out what it means to call God our Almighty Father
- Explore creation
- Identify what Divine Providence tells us about God

Identify the message of hope preached by Isaiah

- Discuss evil and suffering
- Identify the Savior that God promised to send

Discover the life of Jesus

- Point out how Jesus showed us he was the Messiah
- Discuss the works of Jesus
- Identify relationship between shepherds and sheep
- Learn what Jesus taught to show that He is our Good Shepherd
- Discover why Jesus and his disciples went to Jerusalem
- Discuss Jesus’ trial and death
- Explore the Resurrection and Ascension

Discover the faith of the Church in the Holy Spirit

- Discuss how Jesus helps his disciples continue his work
- Identify why Pentecost is important

Discover what it means to call the Church the new People of God

- Discover the works of the church on earth

- Point out what the Kingdom of God is
- Summarize the Communion of the Saints

LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Discover what the Church celebrates during the liturgy

- Identify why the Church gathers to celebrate the liturgy
- Describe the liturgical year
- Identify what the church remembers and celebrates during the liturgy

Discover what we celebrate in the sacraments

- Explore the initiation, healing, and service sacraments
- Participate in the Eucharist weekly, and Reconciliation during the Advent and Lenten seasons
- Enhance the learning of the sacraments with Scripture

MORALITY

Describe what gifts God has given us to guide us to make choices to live holy lives

- Discover the powers God has given us to make good choices
- Discuss choices and consequences
- Explore how feelings and emotions help us make decisions

Discover how we are to live as children of God and followers of Jesus

- Point out what Beatitudes teach about making good choices and true happiness
- Discover what gifts God has given us to guide us to make choices to live holy lives
- Review the Great Commandment
- Highlight how the Ten commandments helped the Israelites lives
- Summarize the teachings of the Ten Commandments

PRAYER

- Discover the different ways the Catholic Church prays
- Identify what we do when we pray
- Highlight the ways the Church prays
- Understand the importance of prayer
- Understand how the creeds of the Church help us to pray
- Explain the five main kinds of prayer prayed by the Church
- Highlight the importance of prayer journeys
- Learn traditional prayers
- Understand what Jesus teaches us in the Our Father
- Highlight how Jesus taught the disciples to pray
- Understand the meaning of the parts of the Our Father

SCIENCE

Students will develop an understanding of the scientific inquiry process and utilize this skill:

- Make observations using senses and generate questions based on those observations
- Plan and conduct simple and fair investigations
- Learn to manipulate simple investigative tools such as a hand lens, balance, ruler, meter stick, measuring cup, thermometer, spring scale, and graduated cylinder
- Use appropriate units when measuring
- Construct charts and graphs from data and observations

Students will analyze and communicate scientific inquiry results:

- Summarize information from charts and graphs to answer scientific questions
- Gather and share information gathered
- Compare and contrast differences in scientific investigation

Students will apply their scientific knowledge to new situations:

- Demonstrate scientific concepts through illustrations, performances, models, exhibits, and activities
- Use data to separate fact from opinions
- Use evidence when communicating scientific ideas
- Identify problems that may be solved through the use of technology
- Describe contributions people have made in Science through history
- Describe the effects of our human behavior in the world

Students will categorize organisms and learn about them:

- Explain plant structure and function
 - Learn how plants are grouped
 - Identify the parts of a flower
 - Study how flowers make seeds and fruits
 - Review the life cycle of a flowering plant
- Identify animal structure and function
 - Learn how animals are alike and different
 - Identify how animals with backbones vary
 - Study which characteristics do animals get from their parents
- Trace energy in ecosystems
 - Learn what an ecosystem is
 - Identify how plants get energy
 - Study how other living things get energy
 - Review what are food chains and food webs
- Examine surviving in the environment

Learn what structures help plants and animals survive
Identify what behaviors help animals survive

- Study how changes in the environment affect survival

Physical Science:

- Learn about matter including the basic states
Measure length with meters and volume with meters cubed and liters
Find mass and density
Identify physical and chemical changes and why they occur
Demonstrate how temperature can be increased in a substance by adding energy
- Define motion
Learn how forces and energy affect motion
Identify how work and motion are related
- Identify and learn about heat, light, sound, electrical, chemical, and magnetic energy
Describe how energy changes forms
Study what an electric current is and identify conductors of electricity
Learn how electric circuits work and create a series circuit
Learn what magnetism is, create a magnet, and observe the magnetic field with iron filings
Identify how electricity and magnetism work together and create an electromagnet
Learn what and sound are
Study what happens when light hits an object
Identify how sound travels
Learn how we hear sound

Earth Science

- Learn and understand weather and climate
Study how sunlight affects air temperature
Review how temperature affects air movement
Study what causes clouds and precipitation
Review how meteorologists predict weather using satellite, radar, and other measuring devices
- Analyze the makeup of the Earth
Identify what the Earth's surface is like
Study how weathering and erosion affect the Earth's features
Study what materials make up the Earth's features
Review what resources are found on the Earth
Explain existence of fossils and compare and contrast the past to the present

- Gain an understanding of the ocean
 - Study how people map the ocean floor
 - Learn how scientists explore the ocean floor
 - Review how ocean water moves
 - Discuss where organisms live in the ocean
- Demonstrate an understanding of the solar system
 - Study what are the effects of the Earth's and Moon's movements
 - Compare the Earth to other planets
 - Discuss other objects in the solar system
- Develop a more detailed understanding of the body systems and health:
 - Review all the body systems
 - Discuss nutrition and understand the necessity of good eating habits
 - Learn about blood
 - Study digestion, skin, circulatory, and nervous system in depth
 - Identify healthy living to protect your body systems

MATH

Knowledge of numbers and improve reasoning skills:

- Explore, read, write, and know place value through a million
- Compare and order numbers and money
- Use the four step process for story problems
- Round numbers and money
- Count money and make change
- Experience negative numbers
- Solve story problems

Addition and subtraction and improve reasoning skills:

- Use properties of addition and subtraction
- Identify addition and subtraction patterns
- Add and subtract whole numbers and money
- Use mental math to add and subtract
- Estimate sums and differences
- Choose estimating or exact answers for story problems
- Regroup across zeros
- Write a number sentence to answer the story problem using algebra

Data, statistics, and graphing and improve reasoning skills:

- Review telling time and calculate elapsed time
- Use a calendar
- Calculate range, median, and mode

- Find extra or missing information when doing story problems
- Use pictographs, bar graphs, line graphs, and line plots
- Identify ordered pairs and graph on a coordinate graph solving for (x,y)
- Solve story problems

Multiplication and division and improve reasoning skills:

- Review the meaning and properties of multiplication and division
- Review fact families in multiplication and division
- Increase speed and accuracy of multiplication tables
- Identify multiplication and division patterns
- Multiply 3 numbers
- Multiply and divide using multiples of 10
- Multiply two digit numbers by 5 digit numbers
- Divide 5 digit dividends by 2 digit divisors
- Divide with 0's in the quotient
- Estimate products and quotients
- Use algebraic equations to solve multiplication and division problems
- Find the mean
- Interpret remainders to solve story problems
- Choose a strategy to solve story problem such as guess and check, graphs, acting out, finding patterns, and overestimating or underestimating
- Learn order of operation

Measurement using common tool and appropriate units and improve reasoning skills:

- Explore customary length, capacity, and weight
- Explore metric length, capacity, and mass
- Convert units
- Use logical reasoning to solve story problems
- Measure and compare integer temperatures in degrees

Geometric concepts and improve reasoning skills:

- Identify 3 dimensional figures
- Identify 2 dimensional figures and polygons
- Draw and label lines, line segments, rays, angles, radii, chords, and diameter.
- Use diagrams to solve story problems
- Identify congruent and similar
- Explore translation, reflection, rotation, and symmetry
- Use patterns to solve story problems
- Solve for perimeter, area, and volume

Fractions and probability, and improve reasoning skills:

- Explore parts of a whole and a group
- Find equivalent fractions and fractions in simplest form
- Compare and order fractions
- Check for reasonableness in solving story problems
- Study mixed numbers and add or subtract them
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators
- Discuss likely and unlikely, and explore probability
- Use tree diagrams to solve story problems
- Make predictions

Fractions and decimals, and improve reasoning skills:

- Relate fractions to decimals
- Learn tenths, hundredths, and thousandths
- Compare and order decimals
- Draw a diagram to solve story problems
- Round decimals
- Add and subtract decimals
- Estimate sums and differences
- Choose an operation to solve story problems

READING

Word Recognition

- Explain how to use word structures, sentences, and prediction to aid in decoding words and understanding the meanings of words encountered in text.
- Use structural, semantic, and syntactic cues to automatically read frequently encountered words, decode unknown words, and decide meaning including multiple meaning words.
- Automatically recognize frequently encountered words in print, with the number of words that can be read fluently increasing steadily across the school year.
- Know the meanings of words encountered frequently in grade level reading and oral language contexts.
- Acquire and apply strategies to construct meaning, self-monitor, and identify unknown words or word parts: engage actively in reading a variety of genre, self-monitor and correct in narrative and informational texts, use thesaurus.

Fluency

- Fluently read beginning grade level text and increasingly demanding text as the year proceeds.

Vocabulary

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases in context (similes, metaphors, content vocabulary) using strategies and resources (context clues, semantic feature analysis, and thesaurus).

Narrative Text

- Describe the shared human experience depicted in classic, multicultural, and contemporary literature recognized for quality and literary merit.
- Identify and describe the structure, elements, and purpose of a variety of narrative genre including, poetry, myths, legends, fantasy, and adventure.
- Analyze characters' thoughts and motivation through dialogue, various character roles, and functions including hero, anti-hero, or narrator; know first person point of view and identify conflict and resolution.
- Explain how authors use literary devices including flash-forward and flashback to depict time, setting conflicts, and resolutions to enhance plot and create suspense.

Informational Text

- Identify and describe the structure, elements, features, and purpose of a variety of informational genre including autobiography/biography, personal essay, almanac, and newspaper.
- Identify and describe informational text patterns including compare/contrast, cause/effect, and problem/solution.
- Explain how authors use text features including appendices, headings, subheadings, marginal notes, keys and legends, figures, and bibliographies to enhance the understanding of key and supporting ideas.

Comprehension

- Connect personal knowledge, experiences, and understanding of the world to themes and perspectives in text through oral and written responses.
- Retell through concise summarization grade-level narrative and informational text.
- Explain relationships among themes, ideas, and characters within and across texts to create a deeper understanding by categorizing and classifying, comparing and contrasting, or drawing parallels across time and culture.
- Apply significant knowledge from grade-level science, social studies, and mathematical texts.

Metacognition

- Self monitor comprehension when reading or listening to text by automatically applying and discussing the strategies used by mature readers to increase comprehension including: predicting, constructing mental images, visually representing ideas in text, questioning, rereading or listening again if uncertain about meaning, inferring, summarizing, and engaging in interpretive discussions.

- Plan, monitor, regulate, and evaluate skills, strategies, and processes to construct and convey meaning (e.g., decoding unknown words) and use graphic organizers to deepen their understanding of compare/contrast, and sequential organizational patterns.

Critical Standards

- Develop, discuss, and apply individuals and shared standards using student/class created rubrics and begin to assess the quality, accuracy, and relevance of their own writing and the writing of others.

Reading Attitude

- Be enthusiastic about reading and do substantial reading and writing on their own.

WRITING

Writing Genre

- Write a cohesive formal letter, narrative piece, informational how to piece, persuasive piece, fable, expository piece, and building strategies for a research project.
- Write poetry based on reading a wide variety of grade –appropriate poetry.
- Use a variety of resources; take notes; and organize relevant information to draw conclusions.

Writing Process

- Set a purpose, consider audience, and replicate authors' styles and patterns when writing a narrative and informational piece.
- Apply a variety of pre-writing strategies for pieces (e.g., graphic organizers such as maps, webs, Venn diagrams) in order to generate sequence, and structure ideas (e.g., plot, setting, conflicts/resolutions, definition/description, or chronological sequence).
- Draft focused ideas using a variety of drafting techniques composing coherent and mechanically sound paragraphs when writing compositions.
- Revise drafts based on constructive and specific oral and written responses to writing by identifying sections of the piece to improve sequence and flow of ideas (e.g., arranging paragraphs, connecting main and supporting ideas, and transitions).
- Proofread and edit writing using appropriate resources (e.g., dictionary, spell check, grammar check, grammar references, writing references) and grade-level checklists both individually and in groups.

Personal Style

- Exhibit personal style and voice to enhance the written message (e.g., in narrative text: strong verbs, figurative language, sensory images, in informational text: precision, established importance, transitions).

Grammar and Usage

- In the context of writing , correctly use simple and compound sentences; direct and indirect objects; prepositional phrases; adjectives, common and proper nouns as subjects and objects; pronouns as antecedents, regular and irregular verbs; articles, hyphens between syllables; apostrophes in contractions; and commas in salutations to set off words; phrases and dialogue; quotation marks or italics to identify titles or names.

Spelling

- In the context of writing correctly spell frequently encountered words (e.g., roots, inflections, prefixes, suffixes, multi-syllabic); for less frequently encountered words, use structural cues (e.g., letter/sound, rimes, morphemic) and environmental sources (e.g., word lists, dictionaries, spell checkers).

Critical Standards

- Develop, discuss, and apply individual and shared standards using teacher created rubrics and begin to assess the quality, accuracy, and relevance of their own writing and the writing of others.

Handwriting

- Using cursive write neatly and legibly.

Writing Attitude

- Be enthusiastic about writing and learning to write.

Speaking Conventions

- Use common grammatical structures correctly when speaking including appositives, participial phrases, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases to express ideas in more complex sentences.
- Adjust their use of language to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences and for different purposes including community building, appreciation, invitations, and cross-curricular discussions.
- Speak effectively using facial expressions, hand gestures, and body language in narrative and informational presentations.
- Present in standard American English if it is their first language. (Students whose first language is not English will present in their developing version of standard American English).
- Understand, providing examples of how language differs from region to region of the United States as a function of linguistic and cultural group membership. (variation)

Discourse

- Engage in interactive, extended discourse to socially construct meaning in book clubs, literature circles, partnerships, or other conversation protocols.
- Discuss narratives conveying the story grammar and emphasizing facial, hand gestures, and body language.

- Respond to multiple text types by reflecting, making connections, taking a position, and/or showing deep understanding.
- Plan and deliver presentations focusing on a key question using an informational organizational pattern (e.g., descriptive, problem/solution, cause/effect); supportive facts and details reflecting and emphasizing facial expressions, hand gestures, and body language.

Listening & Viewing Conventions

- Ask substantive questions of the speaker that will provide additional elaboration and details.
- Listen to or view critically while demonstrating appropriate social skills of audience behaviors (e.g., eye contact, attentive, supportive) in small and large group settings.
- Distinguish between and explain how verbal and non-verbal strategies enhance understanding of spoken messages and promote effective listening behaviors.
- Recognize and analyze the various roles of the communication process (e.g., to persuade, critically analyze the various roles of the communication process (e.g., to persuade, critically analyze, flatter, explain, dare) in focusing attention on events and in shaping opinions.

Response

- Listen to or view knowledgeably and discuss a variety of genre and compare their responses to those of their peers.
- Select listen to or view knowledgeably, and respond thoughtfully to both classic and contemporary texts recognized for quality and literary merit.
- Respond to multiple text types listened to or viewed knowledgeably, by discussing, illustrating, and/or writing in order to clarify meaning, make connections, take a position, and/or show deep understanding.
- Combine skills to reveal strengthening literacy (e.g., viewing then analyzing in writing, listening then giving an opinion orally).
- Respond to and summarize the major ideas and evidence presented in spoken messages and formal presentations.