

north cobb christian school

FOURTH GRADE

4th CURRICULUM

BIBLE

Students discover God's redemptive love by studying the life of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the ministry of the apostle Paul. Students learn that their lives are like castles that God can build into strong and beautiful monuments of His grace. They continue to develop a biblical worldview that encourages a personal commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As students develop a personal relationship with the Lord, they learn to spend time in praise, worship and Scripture. Scripture memorization grows to include extended passages as students understand the impact of deep and connected biblical truth on their lives. Students put their faith into action through an annual service project.

MATH

Everyday Math encourages students to be creative problem solvers and flexible thinkers. Students are challenged to work through problems that foster independence and persistence in their critical thinking. Students explore methods that work for them, building confidence and ensuring positive feelings about math. Everyday Math's carefully crafted, research-based learning progressions help students connect skills, concepts and applications. Students develop deep understandings and long-term learning by repeatedly returning to big ideas, such as place value of larger numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and geometry.

READING

Fourth grade immerses students in reading comprehension skills, such as main idea, important details, cause and effect, and fact and opinion. Students learn to utilize visual tools to organize thinking and apply comprehension skills, completing these tools independently while reading fiction and nonfiction texts on their instructional level. Students then participate in small groups to share their visual tools and analyze what they have learned about reading comprehension. During small groups, teachers create a group visual tool, compiling students' thoughts and modeling the tool, again. Instructional feedback is given during regular one-on-one reading conferences between teacher and student. Vocabulary instruction includes word knowledge, sentence usage, part of speech and a student-drawn illustration of the word. Intellectual Art is utilized to review for assessments, and visual tools are reviewed class-wide to synthesize an entire text and reinforce the tool.

SPELLING + VOCABULARY

Spelling in fourth grade is engaging with a systematic review of phonetic principles while expanding visual memory skills. Students learn how to spell words on a weekly basis through the instruction of syllabication and affixes. Critical thinking develops as they encounter small group and whole group activities. The goal is for students to recognize words in reading passages and implement expanding vocabulary into their writing.





SCIENCE

Through an integrated biblical worldview, fourth grade science equips students to understand and embrace how God purposefully designed His creation. Hands-on experiences allow students to explore and investigate areas of study, which include planets and stars, light and sound, design of the system of life, and weather forecasting. As students study the world around them, "the hand of the Lord" that has created everything will be evident! (Job 12:9) Regular STEAM activities foster collaboration and critical thought.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Students explore the United States through the four strands of history, geography, government and economics from a biblical worldview. The geography strand explores maps and globes, and students develop map reading skills, including using a map scale. Students also participate in an interactive study of colonial life and motivations for seeking independence during the American Revolution. Students then learn about the formation of our nation's government, the Constitution, and three branches of government, recognizing that our nation has a constitution that derives its power from the people. Students also gain an understanding of the Civil War, including causes, battles, key figures (e.g. Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass), the effect of the war on our country, and abolition. In the study of Westward Expansion, students discover how our young nation prospered as a result of the railroad, gold rush, and Industrial Revolution.

WRITING & GRAMMAR

The Writer's Stylus approach directs students to use the tools of grammar to become influential communicators. Students analyze published works of writing in many genres, practice essential rules of grammar, and experience revision skills through direct instruction and modeling, while continuously interacting via a coach-teacher approach to work through the writing process with scaffolding and support.

4TH GRADE SPECIALS

ART | WEEKLY

Students create 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional works of art through various media, techniques and processes, including drawing, painting, printmaking, weaving, ceramics and sculpture. Students' awareness of God's creation increases as they explore contour and gesture drawing, shading, spatial concepts of depth, and 3-dimensional effects. Properties of color (hue, intensity and value) and color schemes (complementary, neutral, analogous and monochromatic) are incorporated. Contrast, movement, scale and proportion are also emphasized as perception skills of realism develop. Cultural works and master artists are explored.

FINE ARTS ROTATIONS: BAND, ORCHESTRA, GENERAL MUSIC | TWICE WEEKLY

Students move with their class in trimester rotations (12 weeks) of Band, Orchestra, and General Music. Each trimester, students learn basic skills and tools used in that ensemble. In band, students are introduced to the three major families of instruments: woodwind, brass and percussion, and they experience the variety of instruments in this ensemble. In orchestra, students rotate through all four stringed instruments: violin, viola, cello and bass. They are introduced to the three clefs used in orchestral music -- treble, alto and bass -- as they work on techniques used to play each instrument. In General Music, students develop vocal skills and understand vocal health. Students also develop performance skills through seasonal programs. Within each ensemble rotation, students learn rhythms, pitches, note naming, and various key signatures.

P.E. | WEEKLY

Students gain continued development of motor and movement skills, along with an appreciation for physical activity, habits of lifetime wellness, and inclusive social skills. Through individual, dual and group participation in physical activities, students increase understanding of the interrelationship of physical, spiritual, emotional and social well-being. They also set and achieve goals in personal, cooperative and competitive activities. Students gain leadership skills through positive attitudes and peaceful conflict resolution.

SPANISH | WEEKLY

Students grow in comprehending vocabulary and Bible verses in Spanish, as well as appreciation for Hispanic culture. Classroom experiences employ games, songs, chants, and conversations based on questions and answers. Units of study include time, calendar, seasons, weather, celebrations, foods, the alphabet, home, the body, and sentence structure, including article, noun and adjective agreement.

TECHNOLOGY + STEAM | WEEKLY

Students expand upon digital citizenship, basic programming, keyboarding, vocabulary, 3D design and web searches. Peer-to-teacher and peer-to-peer collaborative skills are reinforced with Google Classroom. Students engage in computer exercises that strengthen cognitive reasoning skills while exploring graphic arts, word processing, spreadsheets, slideshows and data collection through Google Apps for Education. STEAM projects are integrated regularly, and critical thinking skills are strengthened for middle school.

