

## **4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CURRICULUM**

### **LANGUAGE ARTS – HOUGHTON MIFFLIN**

Language Arts in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade is an integrated program that includes Reading, English, and Spelling. By having these three subjects interrelated instead of teaching isolated spelling words, grammar rules, and writing, the information will be more relevant to the students and, therefore, they will retain it better.

The reading program uses authentic literature to interest the students. We use teacher led instruction, shared learning approach (cooperative learning, partner pairing), and independent learning activities. 4<sup>th</sup> graders are still developing important reading skills to enable them to read fluently and with comprehension. We concentrate on vocabulary development, structural analysis of words, and processing information from what is read.

The 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading program also consists of reading longer novel selections. Character development, plot, and problem solving are stressed. This begins a preparation for the upper grades where longer book selections are read almost exclusively. The students are also expected to do outside reading. Book report projects are assigned.

Understanding grammar gives students the ability to think and write clearly and effectively. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade English, we concentrate on the following areas:

1. Sentence types and structure
2. Sentence parts which include subjects and predicates
3. 5 of the 7 parts of speech
4. Paragraph development
5. Mechanics of writing including use of punctuation, spelling, and capitalization

Writing is an important part of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade program. We concentrate on writing an effective and coherent paragraph. The writing process goes through a series of steps – brainstorming and prewriting, first draft, revising, proofreading, and publishing. Students are expected to know how to develop a five paragraph essay by the end of 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

Students are given many opportunities to write. Daily journal writing is a part of the program as well as writing imaginative stories. The types of writing stressed in English include narrative, persuasive, and expository. Report writing is also included in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade program. It may cover many subject areas.

### **MATH – SILVER BURDETT & GINN**

We expect the students to know the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Basic facts are essential for mental computation and estimation. Knowledge of basic facts helps the development of computational skills and problem solving. Much of success in math depends on how effectively students learn these facts. Our goal is that students will be able to mentally determine the answers to certain facts quickly and accurately. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade we focus on:

1. Measurement, both U.S. and metric
2. Adding and subtracting large numbers
3. Long division
4. Time, elapsed time, and understanding graphs
5. Fractional parts, equivalent fractions, and mixed numbers
6. Use of money is incorporated in all new concepts

We use manipulative activities to build understanding of mathematical concepts. Problem solving activities help develop critical thinking and connect mathematics to the real world. Drill and practice are used to help reinforce newly learned concepts.

## **SCIENCE – SILVER BURDETT & GINN**

The science program promotes the acquisition of skills to extend learning about the universe, our world, and our lives. Prior knowledge links new information to help students build a sense of how scientific information fits together and how it relates to their own experiences.

Good science education fosters curiosity and a desire for understanding. The students are stimulated to channel that curiosity to find out answers. Experiments using the Scientific Method develop science skills and help students test and evaluate information. The science program in 4<sup>th</sup> grade consists of:

### Life Science

1. The study of seed plants
2. Animals with backbones
3. Animal adaptations
4. Ecosystems

### Physical Science

1. Matter and how it can change
2. Heat
3. Work and energy

One large research report and visual aid is assigned. There may be other shorter assigned reports or projects. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, students begin to learn how to take notes. Daily work is kept in a spiral notebook. This work is to be done neatly in pen. Notebooks are collected and graded each quarter and contribute to the report card grade.

## **RELIGION – RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING**

The Faith First program provides a balance between doctrine, Scripture, and the liturgical year. Each is given individual emphasis and is integrated into the whole. These three themes are woven throughout the program into the everyday life and experience of the students.

4<sup>th</sup> grade is a sacrament year for the students. They will be making their Reconciliation in March. You will be notified by Mrs. Christine Ondrla, our Director of Religious Education, concerning sacrament preparation services and meetings.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES – MACMILLAN/MCGRAW-HILL**

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade social studies, we study world geography and the effects of geography on society with an emphasis on the United States. Now more than ever it is crucial for students to learn about where they live, the effect that geography has on their lives, and their place in the world. We review map skills, how to locate places on a map or globe, and landforms. Throughout the year, we study the six elements of geography: the world in spatial terms, places and regions, physical systems, human systems, environment and society, and the uses of geography. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we study each region

of the United States in depth. We study the environment, history, and economy of each region.

A research project on individual states will be assigned in the spring. Smaller reports and projects will also be assigned throughout the year.