

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

Illustrative Mathematics for 4th grade continues to build upon the foundational math concepts introduced in earlier grades while introducing new topics and more complex problem-solving strategies. Here is a description of what you might find in an Illustrative Mathematics curriculum for 4th grade:

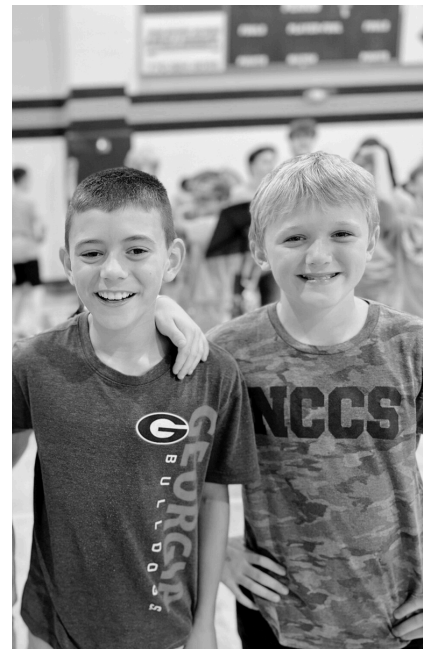
Number Sense and Operations: Students extend their understanding of place value to numbers up to the millions and decimals to the hundredths. They work on fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of multi-digit numbers. Strategies for mental math, estimation, and problem-solving are reinforced and expanded upon.

Fractions and Decimals: Fractions are studied in greater depth, including adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions with unlike denominators. Decimal concepts are introduced, including place value, comparing and ordering decimals, and performing operations with decimals. Students also learn about equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and converting between fractions and decimals.

Geometry: Geometric concepts include classifying shapes based on properties, exploring angles, lines, and symmetry. Area and perimeter calculations extend to more complex shapes, and students begin to calculate volume. Coordinate graphing is introduced, and students learn to plot points and understand coordinates on a grid.

Measurement and Data: Measurement concepts expand to include conversions between different units (e.g., metric to customary units), calculating area and volume of irregular shapes, and solving real-world measurement problems. Data analysis involves interpreting and creating various types of graphs, including line plots, bar graphs, and line graphs, to represent data sets.

Patterns, Functions, and Algebraic Thinking: Students explore patterns, relationships, and functions, including identifying arithmetic patterns and extending them. They learn about factors, multiples, prime and composite numbers, and solve problems involving multiplication and division patterns. Basic algebraic concepts are reinforced, such as understanding variables, expressions, and solving simple equations and inequalities.





Problem-Solving and Mathematical Practices: Problem-solving tasks become more complex, requiring students to apply multiple strategies, justify their reasoning, and communicate their solutions effectively. Students engage in mathematical practices such as making conjectures, constructing arguments, critiquing reasoning, and using tools strategically.

Illustrative Mathematics for 4th grade aims to deepen students' conceptual understanding of mathematics, promote mathematical reasoning and communication skills, and prepare them for more advanced math concepts in subsequent grades. It provides a comprehensive and coherent approach to learning math that emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving abilities.

READING

Fourth-grade curriculum extensively covers reading comprehension skills such as identifying main ideas, important details, cause and effect relationships, and distinguishing between facts and opinions. Students are taught to employ visual aids to enhance their understanding and apply these comprehension skills autonomously while reading both fiction and nonfiction texts at their appropriate reading levels. Following individual reading sessions, students convene in small groups to share and analyze their visual aids, discussing what they've gleaned about reading comprehension. Within these small groups, teachers facilitate the creation of a collective visual aid, amalgamating students' insights and modeling its usage. Regular one-on-one reading conferences between teachers and students provide tailored instructional feedback. Vocabulary instruction encompasses various aspects including word meanings, sentence usage, parts of speech, and student-created illustrations representing the vocabulary. Intellectual Art exercises are utilized to review material ahead of assessments, and class-wide reviews of visual aids serve to consolidate understanding of entire texts and reinforce their utility. Additionally, fourth grade utilizes the Orton-Gillingham approach for reading instruction. This method systematically breaks down reading and spelling into smaller, sequential skills focusing on letters and sounds, with instruction being explicit, direct, sequential, and multi-sensory.

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.

GENERAL MUSIC | WEEKLY

Fourth-grade students attend music once a week, and they are exposed to various elements of music, such as reading rhythmic and melodic melodies. The students will also be proficient in creating music on Soundtrap, an online music creation tool. Fourth graders review ukulele concepts from third grade and build on these as the year progresses. The students review many musical concepts covered in Lower School to prepare them for Middle School Fine Arts. Throughout the year, they work on programs for Grandparents Day, Christmas, and the Spring Concert. The truth that music is a gift from God and we can use it to worship Him is woven into each part of the music class.

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 their 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 expand upon digital citizenship, basic programming, basic keyboarding, vocabulary, 3D design, robotics 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 Workspace for Education. STEAM projects are integrated regularly into Technology class to strengthen critical thinking skills for design thinking and project and problem-based learning activities. We celebrate each student's unique personality and gifts through Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math that stretch them artistically, academically, and cognitively.

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.

READING ROOM | WEEKLY

Students experience a read-aloud of an ongoing chapter book or a children's book that supports chapel themes, seasonal topics, or learning objectives. They also have the opportunity to select and check out two books to take home with them for the week.

