



# Classical School Fourth Grade News

September 2025

We would like to welcome you and your child to a new school year! We are looking forward to a successful year at Classical School, and we know you are too.



## Subject Information

### Math:

Fourth graders are grouped for math as in previous years. Mr. Gilbert teaches Saxon 6/5, and Mrs. Madsen teaches Saxon 5/4. Review of math facts and basic computation skills will be helpful as students get started with their first lessons in their respective math classes. Students need to show you their homework daily to be checked.

### Reading:

As in previous years, fourth graders are grouped for reading. Focus will continue to be on fluency and comprehension skills. Mr. Gilbert's reading class will begin the year with Reading Mastery IV. Mrs. Madsen's reading class will begin the year with Reading Mastery V. We will NOT continue the reading bookmarks but shift to reading logs. We ask that students read a choice book 15-20 minutes everyday. Logs will be checked weekly.

### History/Geography:

We begin the year with a review of continents, oceans, hemispheres, and map scales. The concepts of latitude, longitude, and time zones will be introduced this year.

### Science:

This year we will be using a new science curriculum by Core Knowledge, the same curriculum we use for social studies. This curriculum will challenge students to critically think about how the concepts we study work. Students will also get a STEM lab with a separate teacher once a week. The concepts we will study are Energy Transfer and Transformation, Processes that Shape Earth, Investigating Waves, and the Human Body.

### Writing:

We do not use a specific writing program but rather follow the guidelines of the Core Knowledge Sequence. Our writing focus for September will be poetry and writing a complete 5 sentence paragraph.

### Spelling:

Students will complete lessons out of a workbook as well as take tests. To prepare for tests, students should review the spelling list in the back of the workbook as well as study their spelling rules. We will send home a study list for the entire year to be kept at home for studying purposes.

### Grammar:

Using the Shurley English program, we begin with a review of capitalization and

punctuation rules as well as a review of synonym and antonym definitions. After this review, we will begin classifying "pattern one" sentences.

### **Greek and Latin Roots:**

Throughout the school year, we will be studying 50 Greek and Latin roots. Students are responsible for knowing the meanings and origins of each root. Knowledge of their roots will be a cumulative process, so consistent review is important.

### **Sayings and Phrases:**

There are 34 sayings and phrases that we will be studying this school year. We will discuss the meaning of each saying as well as the appropriate times to use the saying in daily life. Monthly, students will be asked to reflect on one of those sayings and how it applies to their own lives.

### **Handwriting:**

Students will continue their practice of cursive. We will practice lower and upper case letters two-three times per week. During the first semester, certain assignments will need to be completed in cursive as we transition students to an all-cursive requirement starting second semester. Students will be given a grade on their report cards for handwriting.



### **Spanish**

This month, your child will be learning activities and expressions related to what they like and don't like to do. Students will learn about infinitive verbs (example: I like **to eat** cake.) In addition, students will review food vocabulary using likes and dislikes by trying food in the classroom. [Please look at the ingredients of the food listed and complete the permission slip whether or not you want your child eating in the classroom.](#) This month covers the unit 1A (¿Qué te gusta hacer?) in the textbook Auténtico.

### **A Note From Your Teachers**

Fourth grade is a challenging year due to our rigorous curriculum as well as an increase in student responsibilities. We encourage the students to maintain a diligent work ethic. Most importantly, each child needs to believe in himself/herself, and success will follow. We are here for your child every step of the way!

Study skills and strategies are major components of fourth grade. We encourage studying because continuous review of content helps ensure a solid knowledge foundation.

It is truly important to maintain open communication for the success of the educational environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please email.

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