Cape Henry COLLEGIATE

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW AND EXPECTATIONS

GRADE 4

At Cape Henry Collegiate, 4th grade is a year of meaningful growth as students strengthen foundational academic skills while becoming increasingly independent, responsible learners. Through engaging, inquiry-based instruction, students are challenged to think critically, collaborate with others, communicate effectively and apply their learning in authentic ways.

WHAT MAKES GRADE 4 DISTINCTIVE?

In 4th grade, students begin taking greater ownership of their learning. Rather than simply acquiring new knowledge, they learn to ask thoughtful questions, analyze information, collaborate to solve problems and communicate their thinking with increasing confidence. Teachers intentionally foster independence while providing the guidance and encouragement students need to continue growing academically, socially and emotionally.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM A GRADE 4 CLASSROOM?

- Inquiry-driven lessons where students investigate ideas, analyze evidence and make meaningful connections across subjects.
- Collaborative learning experiences that strengthen communication, responsibility and problem-solving skills.
- Hands-on science, coding and design experiences that encourage creativity and innovation.
- Rich discussions, research opportunities and writing workshops that deepen understanding and critical thinking.
- A supportive environment that encourages students to take academic risks, persevere through challenges and develop increasing independence.

A GRADE 4 STUDENT WILL...

- Analyze increasingly complex texts and support ideas using evidence.
- Write narratives, informational pieces and literary responses through a structured writing process. • Apply mathematical reasoning to solve authentic, real-world problems.
- Design, code, test and refine solutions using Python programming and robotics.
- Investigate scientific questions through experimentation, observation and data analysis.
- Develop a deeper understanding of Virginia and Europe through engaging interdisciplinary learning.
- Present research and learning with growing confidence to classmates, teachers and family members.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GRADE 4 CURRICULUM

Language Arts

Students build knowledge through rich literature and engaging topics, including the human heart, challenging environments and the importance of multiple perspectives. Through close reading, thoughtful discussion, vocabulary development and evidence-based writing, students strengthen both analytical thinking and communication skills.

Science and Innovation

Students investigate animal adaptations, heredity, waves, energy and physical systems through hands-on scientific inquiry. They learn to collect and analyze data using the metric system while developing computational thinking through Python programming and robotics.

Mathematics

Students develop fluency with fractions, decimals, multi-digit operations, geometry, measurement, data analysis and algebraic thinking while applying mathematical concepts to authentic problem-solving situations.

Social and Global Studies

Students explore Virginia's history from Jamestown through the Revolutionary War while examining its geography and regions. A yearlong interdisciplinary study of Europe broadens students' global perspective and culminates in a student-led presentation that showcases their research and learning.

By the end of 4th grade, students have developed stronger academic skills, increased independence and the confidence to tackle more complex learning experiences. As students continue to develop confidence and resilience, they build the knowledge, habits and independence that prepare them for the challenges of 5th grade. They leave the year prepared for future leadership opportunities and increased academic expectations.