

FOURTH GRADE

Fourth grade marks an important milestone, the final year "on the ramp", as students grow in independence, faith and responsibility.

They learn to stay organized, manage time, and think critically across all subjects. The Mission Project is a highlight of the year, inviting students to research, write, and create while discovering California's early history.

A field trip to Sanchez Adobe brings that history to life. Through the year the, social-emotional program helps students strengthen empathy, self-awareness, and Christian values as they prepare to step into the upper grades.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading and writing connect meaningfully with social studies this year as students explore California's history through literature and research. They read historical fiction and strengthen their comprehension of nonfiction by examining text features, author's purpose, and genre. Students write narrative, opinion and expository pieces while practicing note-taking and paragraph organization. Favorite class novels include The Lemonade War, By the Great Horn Spoon! and Island of the Blue Dolphins.

MATHEMATICS

Students apply mathematical thinking to real-world projects that make learning both challenging and fun. They deepen their understanding of whole numbers and decimals through hands-on applications, such as a restaurant project that introduces division and money concepts. Students also connect fractions to daily life experiences like baking and cooking. Geometry concepts, including lines, angles, perimeter, and area, are introduced and explored through problem-solving and design.

RELIGION

Fourth graders continue to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and the life of the Church. They participate more fully in liturgies and study the parts of the Mass, the meaning of the Sacraments, and the Stations of the Cross. Each student researches and presents on a saint of their choice and studies Saint Junípero Serra as part of the Mission Project. By year's end, students can pray the Rosary and reflect on the many ways faith shapes daily life.

SCIENCE

Students explore the laws of energy, the formation of rocks, and the forces that shape the Earth. Using the scientific method, they make predictions, conduct experiments, and record observations. Hands-on activities encourage collaboration and creativity, from designing technology that mimics animal senses to investigating fossils that reveal Earth's story.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Through Character Strong lessons and activities, fourth graders learn to live out kindness, responsibility, and empathy in their everyday lives. They explore how their choices impact others, practice respectful communication, and connect virtues such as gratitude, honesty, and perseverance to their growing faith. These lessons support both academic and spiritual growth, helping students become thoughtful friends and compassionate leaders.

SOCIAL STUDIES

California history comes alive as students study the land, people, and events that shaped the state. They learn about native tribes, explorers, and the mission era, and examine how the Gold Rush and statehood influenced California's development. Students identify regions of the state and explore industry, agriculture, and innovation through maps, projects, and research. A highlight of the year is creating their own Mission Project and visiting the Sanchez Adobe to experience history firsthand.

MUSIC

Fourth graders expand their understanding of music by learning to read notes and musical symbols. They apply this knowledge by playing the recorder and studying song forms such as Rondo and Sonata. Through listening, rhythm work, and ensemble play, students grow in confidence and appreciation for the ways music connects people and faith.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students strengthen coordination, agility, and teamwork through active play and organized sports. They learn to change direction, plan offensive and defensive plays, and develop precision in throwing, catching, kicking, and dribbling. Stretching, goal setting, and personal responsibility are emphasized as students grow in skill and confidence.

SPANISH

Students continue to build their Spanish vocabulary and grammar as they expand into more detailed topics. They learn words for household items, fruits, table settings, and numbers, while beginning to express emotions and sensations. With pronunciation now well established, students focus on sentence formation and conversation, while learning new prayers and songs that strengthen both language and faith connections.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Students advance their coding and problem-solving skills using Scratch, exploring more complex concepts such as conditionals, loops, and if-then-else statements. They apply logical reasoning to design creative digital projects and develop research and presentation skills to share their work confidently. By the end of the year, students demonstrate mastery of foundational programming concepts, using technology as a tool for creativity, communication, and innovation.