

WHAT TO EXPECT IN FOURTH GRADE

The purpose of this Curriculum Guide is to summarize the major objectives for each subject in 4th grade at St. John XXIII Catholic School.

Characteristics of a 4th grader:

- Demonstrates an interest in the wider world
- Grows in awareness of justice and fair play
- Exhibits awareness of self as individual and as a member of a group
- Recognizes the/a need for guidelines and rules
- Acts more independently and confidently
- Begins to think of larger issues such as the environment, prejudice, violence, etc.
- Enjoys reading, listening to, and participating in stories as well as role playing
- Develops friendships with members of the same sex
- Learns from observations as well as direct teaching
- Is able to use technology to obtain information and to communicate with others
- Displays curiosity about life, nature, and people
- Develops awareness that life requires making choices
- Is significantly influenced by teens and pre-teens in popular culture (music, television, & movies)

English/Language Arts

The Language Arts Program encourages the integration and balance of listening, speaking, reading, writing, critical thinking, and the learning of language skills in meaningful context.

Fourth graders use language to develop skills in both listening and speaking by:

- Identifying key ideas from reading materials and discussions
- Know how to ask and answer questions and provide feedback during a discussion
- Justify responses with evidence to support reasoning
- Identify, carry out, and evaluate discussion rules and roles

In fourth grade, writing students will:

- Recognize facts and details
- Explain a writer's point of view
- Create an opinion piece that has a clear introduction, statement of opinion, strong organizational structure, and is supported by facts and details
- Write an informative and explanatory piece that include clear topic of introduction, related information grouped in paragraphs, clear formatting, facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, domain specific vocabulary, and include a concluding statement
- Write a narrative that establishes a situation using dialogue, descriptions, sensory details to develop experiences, and provides transitional words and phrases
- Recognize how to plan, revise, edit, and rewrite keeping the audience in mind
- Distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information using both print and digital sources

English/Language Arts

In fourth grade reading students will:

- Explain how details are needed to support the main idea and summarize a text using key supporting details
- Analyze information from charts, diagrams, graphs, timelines, animation, and interactive elements
- Define evidence and reason
- Identify the author's reasons and evidence
- Evaluate how to use reasons to support points
- Evaluate how to use evidence to support points
- Identify information within texts on the same topic
- Generalize information from two texts on the same topic
- Describe the characters, the setting, or an event using a character's thoughts, words, or actions
- Identify and compare point of view (including first and third narrations)
- Compare/contrast themes, topics, or event patterns

In fourth grade language students will:

- Know grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Identify syllabication patterns and root words
- Apply reading strategies for accuracy, rate, and expression
- Apply correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in writing
- Determine the meaning of words using Greek and Latin affixes and tools
- Choose from a range of vocabulary strategies to determine a word's meaning
- Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue

Mathematics

In 4th grade, your child will gain important new skills while continuing to build on what he or she learned in third grade. We use the curriculum Bridges here at St. John XXIII Catholic School.

Students will understand:

- Strategies to solve problems using manipulatives, diagrams, and written expressions
- Place value of whole numbers and decimals to two decimal places
- Fluency in adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing numbers
- Strategies for multi-digit multiplication and division
- Apply formulas to obtain measurements
- Recognize, compare, and decompose fractions
- Apply geometric concepts to two-dimensional figures

Science

Your child will experience instruction in the classroom that emphasizes scientific exploration and experimentation. This year, we will be piloting the Inspire Science Curriculum at St. Johns XXIII.

In fourth grade, science will be broken down into four different topics:

- Physical Science: energy, waves, & patterns to transfer information
- Life Science: internal/external structures of plants and animals, & parts of a flower and their role
- Earth Science: three types of rocks, rock cycle, weathering and erosion, & renewable/nonrenewable resources
- Science and Engineering: engineering design process, plan and carry out investigations, interpret data, & engage in an argument based on evidence

Religion

In fourth grade, the students realize that each one helps build the kingdom of God by following the commandments and serving others as Jesus did.

In fourth grade religion, we study the following units:

- Unit 1: We Believe in the Word
- Unit 2: The People of God
- Unit 3: The Mystery of God and His Promise
- Unit 4: The Son of God
- Unit 5: Sharing in Christ's Life and Work
- Unit 6: The Beatitudes and Ten Commandments