

Overview of Fourth Grade Curriculum

Language Arts, including English, Spelling and Reading: Bob Jones University Press: During the fourth grade year, Students concentrate on refining their writing skills while learning current sentence structure (including kinds of sentences, punctuation, capitalization, abbreviations, and possessive words). A unit on letter writing helps students become familiar with writing a variety of types of letters including business and friendly letters, post cards and thank you notes. Students are required to write a report involving gathering information by using encyclopedias. Composing book reports and creative compositions rounds out the writing experiences of the fourth grade student. Grammar skills presented this year include using all eight parts of speech and diagramming of verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs. Students have a great deal of practice refining their cursive penmanship skills. As in past years, students have weekly spelling and vocabulary tests. Reading skills in oral reading, comprehension, speed-reading and vocabulary building continue to be refined as students are exposed to a variety of materials. Students read from classic literature that highlights character building. Faithfulness, honesty, industry, kindness and service are but a few of the character themes presented in the material students read.

Mathematics: Abeka: The goal of Abeka Math Curriculum is for students to understand math concepts to become lifelong problem solvers. It contains an integrated Christian content that cultivates a biblical worldview. Students develop problem-solving skills using manipulatives and methods that foster discussion and reflection.

- Addition and subtraction: addition with carrying; subtraction with borrowing; averaging; story problems
- Multiplication and division; multiplication by a two-digit factor; division by a one- and two-digit divisor
- Measurement: English and metric, solving story problems; converting measures; measurement equations
- Fractions: addition and subtraction; mixed numbers; reducing, proper and improper; story problems; cross multiplication
- Decimals: place value; comparing; decimal fraction equivalents; multiplying; estimation; rounding money
- Dividing Decimals: division with rounding off; changing fractions to decimals; dividing decimals; story problems with dividing by a decimal
- Graphs: reading and labeling various types of graphs; temperature; converting Celsius to Fahrenheit; converting Fahrenheit to Celsius; order of operations; negative temperatures
- Fractions: dividing whole numbers; story problems; dividing fractions by a fraction, mixed fraction, whole number, and mixed numbers
- Geometry: shapes, angles and triangles; perimeter; solving for the area of a rectangle, square, and acre; finding square roots.

History: Bob Jones University Press: Heritage Studies 4 presents the cultural geography of the fifty states and five territories according to their regions. Students will examine the history of each state and territory as well as an overview of American history. Students will also complete *My State Notebook* (Abeka Publications) for Virginia.

Science: Bob Jones University Press: The fourth grade science program presents an interactive approach to science through a Christian worldview. Students learn to observe and understand the world around them by studying the following subject areas:

Earth Science:

- Weathering:
 - Mechanical
 - Chemical
 - Humus
 - Topsoil
 - Bedrock
- Mass-wasting:
 - Creep
 - Landslide
 - Avalanche
- Erosion:
 - Water, splash erosion, sheet erosion
 - Gully, rill, valleys, gorges,
 - Delta, flood plain, wave-cut cliff, stack, spit, hook, barrier islands, tombolo
 - Glaciers, cirque, fjord
 - Till, wind, blowout, conservation, prevention
- Space:
 - History of the moon: theories, age activity, dust, distance, purpose, light, movement, calendar, end
 - Moon features: structure, surface size, mass gravity shape distance, temperatures, motions, phases

Life Science:

- Living things:
 - Insects, arachnids and myriapods; Insect order
 - Plants: classification, botanist, fungi, molds, algae, mosses and liverworts, ferns, conifers, seeds, deciduous, flowering and fruit-producing plants, monocotyledons, dicotyledons
 - Animal defenses: camouflage, weapons, protective coverings, special defenses, tactics
 - Trees: classifying by leaf, simple and compound leaves, pinnate and palmate leaves
- Human Body:
 - Digestion

Physical Science

- Energy:
 - Electricity
 - Light
- Matter:
 - Length, area and volume

Bible: Bob Jones University Press: *Bible 4* reveals how the Old Testament books fit together to tell a single, connected story. Students will trace this story from Creation and the Fall through the unfolding theme of Redemption in the accounts of Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the nation of Israel.

Also:

Music: In weekly music classes, students are taught the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory. Students will also be involved in one school musical program each year.

Physical Education: Our physical education teacher helps the students develop large motor skills and knowledge of games with rules.

Art: Students have an art class in addition to the art that is integrated into the daily program. Students learn about different techniques and about working with different media, as well as receiving an introduction to Art History. They are introduced to famous artists, and see how Bible stories and concepts have been illustrated through the ages with art.

Library: All elementary students have the opportunity to visit the school library each week for a literacy lesson. They are also able to borrow books on a weekly basis.

Social Skills: Students meet with the school counselor to learn about self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills.

Spanish: Students learn basic conversational Spanish and common vocabulary words.

Chapel: The entire elementary school joins together in the church chapel for a short service each Wednesday morning. This is a time of worship, prayer, and testimonies. Classes take turns presenting the weekly lessons. Christ Chapel Academy pastors are frequent visitors.

Challenge Club (after school): *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL): Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of STEM while working together to solve fun challenges and building models using LEGOS. Participants will work in teams to design and build robots using LEGO Education SPIKE Essentials. Once they are ready to move into a competitive setting, they join Challenge and apply their STEM skills combined with critical thinking to work with a team, build a robot and compete in an exciting, mission-based Robot Game. Each Challenge season has three parts: the Robot Game, the Innovation Project, and the *FIRST* Core Values. FLL Teams consist of 2-10 team members and 2 adult coaches. By the end of Robot Season, students will understand the basics of STEM and apply their skills in an exciting way while gaining productive learning habits, confidence, and teamwork skills along the way.