**Overview of Fourth Grade Curriculum**

**Updated December 3, 2019**

**Language Arts, including English, Spelling and Reading: Bob Jones University Press Publications; Handwriting: A Beka Publications:** 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---Bob Jones University Press, Mathematics for Fourth Grade:**  Bob Jones University Press Math is a comprehensive math curriculum that balances conceptual understandings of mathematics with appropriate drill and practice and allows students to practice the conceptual skills they have learned with meaningful, real life problems. The use of manipulatives is viewed as critical and necessary to the study of Mathematics. As students involve themselves in hands-on activities, they grasp the mathematical concept being presented.

At the fourth grade level students are introduced to and encouraged to master the following concepts:

* Addition and subtraction: Adding whole numbers and decimals; adding fractions and mixed numbers; estimating sums and differences; subtracting five-digit numbers with regrouping; subtracting decimals, fractions and mixed numbers
* Multiplication: Multiplying two, three and four digit numbers by one and two digit numbers
* Division: Dividing three digit numbers by one digit numbers with and without remainders; dividing by two digit divisors; finding averages
* Patterns: Identifying, describing, extending and designing patterns; identifying sequences’ square, prime and composite numbers
* Number theory: Numbers in expanded form through millions; rounding whole numbers and decimals
* Place value: Reading and writing whole numbers to hundred millions; reading and writing decimals to hundredths
* Factions and decimals: Finding equivalent fractions; reducing fractions to the lowest terms; like and unlike denominators; greatest common factor
* Measurement: Finding perimeter and area; using fractions to show length; US customary and metric: length, capacity, weight and temperature
* Time: Telling time to the nearest minute; telling a.m. and p.m. time; elapsed time; comparing and using units of time
* Money: Comparing money amounts; making change; adding, subtracting and multiplying amounts of money
* Geometry: Identifying points, rays, lines, angles, triangles polygons and quadrilaterals; identifying solid figures; congruence and symmetry
* Algebra: Writing equations; zero, order and grouping properties; grouping numbers using parentheses; locating an object using ordered pairs
* Probability and Statistics: Collecting, organizing, and analyzing data; making and interpreting graphs, charts and tables; conducting a survey

**History and Geography---A-Beka Publications:** At the fourth grade level, students receive their first formal study of American history. In chronological order, students travel through time and experience the following events that have made our nation what it is today from the Nation’s Discovery through World War II.

**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-Association of Christian Schools International: Christ and His Word:** The fourth graders study Biblical doctrine written on their level focusing on God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, Salvation, Heaven, Angels, Hell and Final Events. Students learn how these relate to life problems of honesty, getting along with others, self-esteem, good use of time, divorce in the family, acceptance, and feeling others are unfair.

**\* Computer Introduction and Instruction:** Curriculum skillfully integrates classroom studies with computer skills. Students at all grade levels learn about keyboarding, desktop publishing, data base management, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations and all other components of the Virginia Standards of Learning in the area of technology.

**\* Music:** In weekly music classes, students learn the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory. In fourth grade, students have the option to take strings in lieu of general music class. For students not enrolled in strings, a worship arts class is available. Students taking Worship Arts support worship during the weekly chapel service

**\*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 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 centuries with art.

**\* Spanish:** Conversational Spanish is taught weekly to students through games, stories and song.

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

We also offer at an additional fee:

Piano lessons

Dance lessons

Chess Club

Computer Club

Financial Literacy Class