



Grade 4 Curriculum 2023-2024

4 English Language Arts

The Language Arts program focuses on the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The components of the program emphasize the development of skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively. The skills acquired and understood are applied and reinforced in all content areas.

Reading

The textbook used for reading instruction is *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Into Reading*. Throughout the series, students experience authentic literature and informational text in the form of short stories and poems that are a mix of fiction and nonfiction. Students will also participate in novel studies.

The following skills are emphasized

- reading fluency
- analysis of details, characters, & setting
- text features
- compare & contrast
- cause & effect
- text connections
- sequence of events
- use of context clues
- story structure
- point of view
- main idea & summarization
- citing textual evidence to support claims & opinions
- weekly spelling tests

Writing

The textbook used for writing and grammar is *Voyages in English* from *Loyola Press*.

Students will work through the steps of the writing process to develop and publish several pieces including personal narratives, informational pieces, opinion essays, creative writing, and research reports. The development of each piece sets in motion the goal of producing creative and articulate communicators. Students will apply grammar skills taught into their writing in all content areas.



4 Mathematics

The University of Chicago *Everyday Mathematics-Common Core Edition* builds on understanding mathematics with a focus on problem solving in everyday situations.



Emphasis is on:

- geometric figures
- organizing data
- multiplication & division
- number sentences & algebra
- decimals
- big numbers, estimation & computation
- fractions, decimals, & percents
- chance & probability
- perimeter & area
- reflections & symmetry
- 3-D shapes, weight, volume, & capacity
- rates

4 Science

Students use concrete and hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining. The primary textbook series used is *HMH Science Dimensions* which aligns with the *Next Generation Science Standards*. This series incorporates science & engineering (STEM) concepts.

Students will explore the following topics:

- engineering & technology
- energy
- waves & information transfer
- plant structure & function
- animal structure & function



*Students will also learn science concepts by exploring Mystery Science lessons.

4 Social Studies

Students learn about the history, geography, government, and economics of each U.S. region. By interacting with maps, charts, timelines, and primary sources, students discover what makes each region unique, as well as what connects each region to each other and to the world. The textbook series used is *Impact Social Studies: Regions of the United States* published by McGraw Hill.

Students will study the following



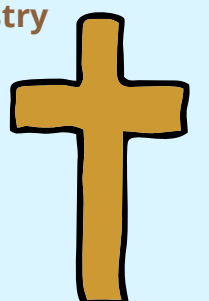
- How Does America Use Its Strengths and Face Its Challenges?
- Why Have People Moved to and From the Northeast?
- How Has the Southeast Changed Over Time?
- How Does the Midwest Reflect the Spirit of America?
- How Does the Southwest Reflect Its Diverse Past and Unique Environment?
- What Draws People to the West?

4 Religion

Catholic values are discussed and integrated not only in Religion class, but in all learning. Students will learn about the Catholic faith through stories, activities, scripture, prayer, discussion, and reflection. The text used for instruction is *Finding God* from *Loyola Press*.

Emphasis is on:

- Sacred Scripture and Tradition
- Catholic beliefs
- Liturgical seasons
- Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, & Service
- Morality
- The lives of saints
- Participation in worship ministry
- Prayer in a variety of forms
- Service to others
- Religious diversity



Service Theme: Hunger

On Service Day, students travel to Feed My Starving Children to pack meals. Additionally, they write Christmas cards and fill goody bags as Christmas treats for clients of the SFX Food Pantry.



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3-5 Art

Students will have the opportunity to express themselves in various art forms.

Emphasis is on:

- identifying and expressing the elements of space, value, form, proportion and composition and the principles to express ideas
- understanding artistic processes such as weaving and sculpture
- recognizing how art functions in media and product design and its communication of ideas among people and places
- using art vocabulary appropriately



4 Music

Students will have the opportunity to participate in music activities and to develop an appreciation for music.

Emphasis is on:

- singing in groups & during performances (Christmas Performance)
- involvement in music ministry
- learning about & exploring rhythm, singing, melody, duration, notation, articulation & tempo, chords & harmony, and the Romantic Period
- explore the orchestra & concert band instruments as well as understanding guitars & fretted instruments
- The Rap Project: experience the process of composing a rap
- studying the composer of the month

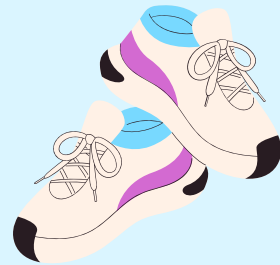


3-5 Physical Education

Students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle.

Emphasis is on:

- muscle strength, cardio-respiratory endurance & flexibility
- rules & offensive and defensive strategies in cooperative sports and activities
- sportsmanship & participation in exercise activities
- leadership skills in various games and activities



3-5 Spanish

Students will continue to explore basic concepts of the Spanish language by listening, reading, writing, and speaking.

Emphasis is on:

- comprehending Spanish phrases or words through repetition
- responding to and asking simple questions with prompts
- repetition of Spanish words introduced through yes or no questions
- using common forms of courtesy, greetings, and farewells
- responding to information from stories or songs
- engaging in simple conversations on familiar topics
- imitating pronunciation, intonation, and inflection
- recognizing basic language patterns
- recognizing important figures and customs from the Spanish-speaking world
- identifying the geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries
- reciting prayers in Spanish



4-8 Technology

Each student in grades 4-8 has the privilege of having a school-owned Chromebook assigned to them for their daily use. Technology skills are taught through content areas, and the use of the devices complements the content area learning standards and lesson objectives.

Additionally, students follow a curriculum which develops appropriate digital citizenship skills. As a Google Workspace School, our students become proficient in the use of Google Drive which includes the use of Docs, Slides, & Forms as well as Google Classroom. Students practice typing skills using [typing.com](https://www.typing.com) and take typing tests each trimester to assess their progress.

