

Fourth Grade

- **Language Arts –**

English: Writing is an essential, lifelong skill which begins very early and requires time, effort and practice to improve. Students will be writing throughout the year for a variety of purposes. They will write essays, reports, letters, stories, informational text, and personal journals. Students are taught to use the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students are also taught about the characteristics, or traits, of good writing so that they can clearly understand their strengths as a writer and how to improve their written work.

Reading: Students are involved in reading every day for a variety of purposes. Students read to build their reading skills through practice, to learn new information, and for pleasure and enjoyment. Students learn strategies to make sense of what they read. Students read individually, with partners, and will be involved in “literature circles” where they read the same book as their group and have guided discussions about what they are reading. Talking about what they read helps students make sense of the text and makes reading more meaningful.

Spelling: Spelling strategies are used to teach sounds, digraphs, and clusters. Spelling lists include words with patterns. Correct spelling is reinforced in daily work.

- **Math** - Elementary students are involved in hands-on, minds-on learning as they work to acquire skills in basic math concepts and skills, problem solving, and mathematical reasoning. We begin with a review of place value, rounding, addition and subtraction. We then move on to multiplication and division of large numbers. Students also enjoy learning about graphs and probability, time and money, measurement, fractions, and decimals.
- **Religion** - Jesus taught us how to live and in 4th grade we learn how to become disciples of Jesus and spread the Word of God. We focus on following the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. We also study sin and forgiveness through Reconciliation.

Steps to Respect education continues to help children solve the problem of bullying. The program teaches students what to do about bullying and how to ask adults for help. This program integrates bullying prevention into academics with various activities for all subject areas.

- **Science** – Children are naturally curious and wonder endlessly about how things work and why things are the way they are. They use scientific skills each and every day – observing, identifying, classifying, and predicting. Students will learn about animals and their adaptations. Each student will research one particular animal and its adaptations. Students will study water and its uses in and out of our community. Students will investigate and measure the weather all around us. Many hands on activities will enable students to understand the states of matter. Students will also study electricity, magnetism, and the solar system.

- **Social Studies** – Wisconsin is the focus of social studies during the first semester. Students will learn about landforms and regions in Wisconsin and will use mapping skills related to what they are learning. Then students will learn about Wisconsin history beginning with prehistoric times leading to the present. We will study the Wisconsin branches of government and discuss how a bill becomes a law. The second semester we will focus on the United States, investigating the regions, states and capitals.
- **Art** - Students will review and build on the foundations of art theory, the elements of art (line, shape, color, texture, form, value) and applying that knowledge to projects and activities. They will continue to also build on the principles of design (balance, pattern, contrast, rhythm). The projects will reflect cultures some of which are Dutch, German, Chinese, Ethiopian, Tibetan and American.
- **Physical Education** - Physical Education for the intermediate level works with the mature form of the basic skills and gears them towards the sport specific skills. We take the knowledge learned and use this to improve one's own physical and mental well-being. Offense and defense strategies are worked on along with social skills with the use of good sportsmanship.
- **Vocal Music** – Students will review and expand upon all notes, rests, musical signs and symbols, musical instruments and musical rhythms that have been learned previously. Students will write a rhythmic “rap” following given instructions. We will review the letters of the treble staff and students will write their own melody line to an “Alleluia” and create a verse for that alleluia. In the third quarter, we will be playing recorders, a task that was started last year. Syncopation will be introduced, and, as always, we will sing a wide variety of songs and listen to a wide variety of music.
- **Fourth Grade Band** - The Band Program is open to students in Grades 4-8. Students may join band for the first time at any of the above grade levels; it is not necessary for students to start in 4th Grade in order to participate.

This band is open to all fourth grade students. Students have the choice of learning one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, or percussion. Students in the 4th Grade Band will learn basic rhythms and the first 10 notes on their chosen instrument. They will also begin to learn how to play in a band, first in unison, and then with harmonically and rhythmically different parts. As each student masters those skills, they will be given the opportunity to advance to the Concert Band as a 4th grader. The Fourth Grade Band performs at two concerts, Christmas and Spring.

- **Spanish** - Your fourth grader already has a great start on the basics. This year, we'll be expanding their vocabulary to include clothing, more foods, and numbers. We will review vocabulary and add to that as well. Some of the areas we'll be reviewing are weather, greetings, days of the week, months of the year, and body parts. We'll be adding more vocabulary to the areas of school materials, animals, family, and classroom commands. It will be an exciting and busy year learning all of this new information!

- **Technology** – Technology for the kids at Lourdes is part of the daily curriculum in the classrooms and computer lab with a variety of activities, lessons and software programs. All classrooms have personal computers for use in small group and individual activities. The computer lab is used for large group instruction, research and independent study. The lab is reserved by classroom teachers as required by their lesson plans.

Fourth grade utilizes technology: Keyboarding occurs during the 2nd semester with emphasis on keyboarding skills, instruction on more features of Microsoft Word and internet terminology, safety and search techniques. Easybook software is introduced to allow students to author their own book.