

# Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is a big transition year for students as they work to become more independent and self-reliant. Fourth graders are naturally curious, enjoy learning, gladly help others, and share their faith in words and actions. Students at this level read to learn about new things as well as do activities which enable them to understand concepts through hands-on experiences. They also do projects which allow them to share information in creative ways and at the same time practice organizational skills and independent decision-making. They become more proficient in budgeting their time and in completing multiple assignments in various subjects each day. During this grade, students quickly assume more responsibility and gain organizational skills which are essential for future success in fifth grade and Middle School.

## Curriculum

❖ **Religion-** Using *One In Christ* workbook, we study the Bible and learn about the Law (our need for a Savior) and the Gospel (the message of salvation through Jesus). We learn Bible stories and see how much God loves us. We have daily devotions and a weekly memory verse. Our goal is to help the children develop a stronger faith in Jesus.

❖ **Reading-** Many resources are used to help strengthen the reading skills of our students. Among them are the *Signatures "Rare Finds"* reading text book, short novels, informational worksheets, SRA reading laboratory, readers' theater plays, and a large classroom library. We also work on fluency, vocabulary development, and strategies to locate information. A novel will be read by the class quarterly.

❖ **English-** Our program, *Shurley English*, emphasizes grammar skills – parts of speech, sentence structure, subject/verb agreement, punctuation, capitalization. Students learn to label every word in sentences according to what part of speech it is. Catchy jingles help students learn about the different parts of speech. Writing skills are practiced across the curriculum, as well as in specific writing assignments to learn the writing process.

❖ **Computer Technology-** Students do projects and learn basic keyboarding and programming.

❖ **Mathematics-** The *Saxon Math* curriculum continually teaches, reviews, and builds on all skills throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on problem solving, math facts, mental math skills, and hands-on activities. *Saxon Math* teaches higher level concepts not typically included in 4<sup>th</sup> grade textbooks.

❖ **Science-** Using our new textbook, *Houghton Mifflin Science: Fusion*, and hands-on science activities, the students explore a wide variety of science concepts. Topics include THE NATURE OF SCIENCE and S.T.E.M.: Studying Science and The Engineering Process; LIFE SCIENCE: Plants and Animals and Energy and Ecosystems; EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE: Weather and Earth and Space; PHYSICAL SCIENCE: Properties of Science, Changes in Matter, and Energy.

❖ **Social Studies-** Using *Harcourt States and Regions*, we study our nation's government, geography, climate, important people, historical events, economy and resources, places of interest, and the way people live in different regions. We also study Alabama's history, government, people, and geography. using *Alabama Dailies*. Students learn the locations of all 50 states, and other map and globe skills. Stories from the reading curriculum often correlate to what we are studying in social studies.

❖ **Spelling-** *Sitton Spelling and Word Skills*® provides a tested progression of materials that enables building visual, spelling and language skills, proofreading, and assessment readiness! The program has an embedded school to home connection with many easy-to-follow Take Home

❖ **Art-** In weekly art classes, students learn to use various mediums and art techniques and are introduced to famous artists.

❖ **Music-** 4<sup>th</sup> graders learn to read notes and play recorders. They study music history. They also perform as a group.

❖ **Physical Education-** Students develop skills such as throwing, striking, kicking, jump roping, juggling, rhythmic movement, group participation and cooperation. Physical fitness will be emphasized. Students will be participating in the President's Physical Test in both the fall and spring.

❖ **Foreign Language-** This class focuses on building a vast vocabulary emphasizing basic conversations. Students also engage in a variety of cultural experiences that enrich their understanding of the Spanish speaking Culture.

## Stanford Achievement Test Results April 2016

<u>Area</u>	<u>Grade Equivalent</u>
Reading	7.4
Language	5.7
Spelling	7.8
Math	7.1
Science	8.3
Social Science	7.9
Listening	6.2
Thinking Skills	6.7
Basic Battery	7.5
Complete Battery	7.7

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Staff

**Mr. Mark Thorsen**

*Teacher*

**Mrs. April Kalber**

*Physical Education*

**Mrs. Laurie Ninke**

*Computer Technology*

**Mrs. Levana James**

*Music*

**Mrs. Adriana Shipma**

*Spanish*

**Mrs. Tracy Thompson**

*Art*

- \*Weekly Parent Letter
- \*Living History Wax Museum (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- \*Numerous Projects to Make Learning Fun
- \*Strong Emphasis on Organizational Skills
- \*Family History Project