

**BIBLE**

Fourth grade uses *Building on the Rock* Bible Curriculum, published by Summit Ministries. *Building on the Rock* lays the groundwork for worldview education. This innovative Christian elementary school Bible curriculum is the first truly integrated biblical worldview and Bible survey course of its kind. Students learn to view the world through four distinct relationships with the Creator, with each other, with ourselves, and with his creation.

*Building on the Rock* is constructed in a spiral sequence, built around twenty biblical truths found throughout Scripture. Through this framework, students begin seeing all of reality from a biblical viewpoint. They stop seeing the Bible as just a book of unique stories and start seeing Scripture as the litmus test for every idea they encounter. Students start “connecting the dots” between what they find in Scripture and how they should think and live. Engaging activities across all curriculum subjects and utilizing the Socratic Method help shape our students’ spiritual formation and instill a confident faith. Students will learn to know, love and trust God’s Word.

**LANGUAGE ARTS****READING/LITERATURE**

Students experience literature through reading, writing, responding, and sharing. The program focuses on developing skilled readers and writers. Fourth grade students will explore literature through guided reading circles. Within these circles students will be challenged through the use of vocabulary, comprehension, analyzing/concluding, predicting, sequencing, and diagramming exercises, just to name a few. Literature used in 4th grade consists of: *Tales of a 4th Grade Nothing*, *Because of Winn Dixie*, *Shiloh*, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Sign of the Beaver*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Souder*, and *Brighty of the Grand Canyon*.

Students are required to participate weekly in an Accelerated Reading (A.R.) program. This program has students reading books at their independent reading levels and taking periodic quizzes over these books. The goals of the A.R. program are to create a love of reading and increase reading comprehension skills.

**SPELLING**

Spelling is a fundamental skill in written communication. We use *A Reason for Spelling*® curriculum, which combines the very latest research on how children best learn to spell, plus all the strengths of traditional programs. It teaches high-frequency words, plus hundreds of other word forms. Incorporated in each week’s spelling lesson is a scripture values weekly theme story, multi-sensory activities and differentiated instruction options. Every sixth lesson reviews and tests the words from the previous five lessons. Vocabulary words are strewn throughout the 4th grade curriculum in areas such as literature and math. Students are tested through sentence dictation, proofreading, spelling tests, matching, and writing. Throughout the year, students are able to see how God gifted us with the privilege of being able to spell and understand our language.

**GRAMMAR AND WRITING**

Shurley English connects grammar, writing, and oral language. Students are taught grammar, capitalization and punctuation rules, sentence classification, analogy relationships, and vocabulary. Writing instruction includes an emphasis on expository, narrative, persuasive, and descriptive styles. Shurley English focuses on developing strong writers by providing instruction for conventions, voice,

organization, development of ideas, sentence fluency, and word choice. Pre-writing, editing, and publishing are a part of all writing assignments.

#### VOCABULARY

The Sadlier-Oxford vocabulary curriculum recognizes that vocabulary instruction is critical to success in reading. Research confirms that word knowledge is essential to reading comprehension and that it is the best indicator of how well a reader will understand what he or she reads. The more words that a student masters, the more accomplished he or she will be as a reader and as a writer.

#### PUBLIC SPEAKING

Scottsdale Christian Academy believes in building student confidence and communication skills early in their education by providing students numerous public speaking opportunities. Students from K-6th grade are given classroom oral reports several times a year, with the additional possibility to publicly address the entire elementary student body in Chapel. With the new global, technologically advanced society surrounding our youth today, SCA believes it is imperative, more than ever, to provide a foundation and enable students to cultivate public speaking at a young age. Expressing thoughts and ideas still remains the cornerstone in any profession or relationship. Development of public communication skills early in life allows students to position themselves for optimal success.

#### MATH

**enVisionmath 2.0 (Pearson)** is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum for Grades K-5. It is organized to develop mathematical content connections with built-in connections across lessons, across topics, across strands, and across grades. Every lesson in **enVisionmath 2.0** provides a worked-out problem in the student materials that introduces the important mathematics of the lesson through a series of visual illustrations that promote understanding. This is called the Visual Learning Bridge. This is a bridge because it connects the students' thinking and solutions for new mathematical ideas of the lesson. The *Solve and Share* in **enVisionmath 2.0** requires the student to select, implement, and manage multiple math practices. Another layer of **enVisionmath 2.0** relates to math practices. Math practices are the habits of mind, processes, and dispositions that enable a learner to understand mathematics and to use or do mathematics with understanding. Math practices translate to observable verbal and written actions by students as they do mathematics. When students connect ideas, they deepen their understanding. **EnVisionmath 2.0** is organized into clusters of connected topics and lessons. Students learn to see relationships, ask questions, and try different approaches. Since the goal and promise of **enVisionmath 2.0** is to develop understanding, the math practices are infused in all aspects of the program. Finally, **enVisionmath 2.0** grows from the organization of the program and the core instructional model used daily. However, there are many other elements that contribute to making **enVisionmath 2.0** a high-quality curriculum. Throughout the program, students at every grade level will make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. **EnVisionmath 2.0** provides a wide variety of differentiation resources and strategies. Tiered activities, learning centers, flexible grouping, and technology help accommodate learning styles and readiness. **EnVisionmath 2.0** also allows students and parents to access online tools from the math curriculum. This online suite allows students and parents access to lessons, practice, videos, and assessments.

**SCIENCE**

Students use the Purposeful Design Science Series which weaves together the wonders of the created world and a Biblical worldview. The National Science Education Standards specify content requirements for each grade which are fully met in this series. Additionally students gain proficiency in using the scientific method and a variety of technical resources to conduct scientific investigations. Students in Fourth Grade will study: Life Science (Design, Order, Diversity, and Systems of Life), Physical Science (Energy and Heat, Light and Sound, Motion and Force, Matter and its Uses), Earth and Space Science (The Lithosphere, The Hydrosphere, The Atmosphere, The Universe), and the Human Body (Wellness and Body Systems).

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Fourth grade students use the textbook *States and Regions*. Units of study include: The United States, The Northeast, The Southeast, The Midwest, The Southwest, and The West. Harcourt Social Studies is a comprehensive K-5 curriculum designed to engage and motivate every student. Through the stories of the intriguing people, exciting places, and fascinating events that make social studies relevant to their lives, students gain a global perspective. They also learn the social studies themes and skills they need to become informed, participating students, use critical thinking skills, and be active in their communities. Students also study the many unique facets of Arizona both past and present.

**ART**

Students in 4th grade attend art class once per week. They review the elements of art – line, texture, form, shape, color, balance, value, and symmetry. They begin to recognize patterns and how to draw with the “off the page” concept. They study artwork of the Native American Indians, paying close attention to line and shape. They explore the use of clay by creating pinch pots. One point perspective is introduced, and this is used in landscapes and in drawing 3D shapes. Students learn the concept of printmaking. They develop more attention to detail in the shape of trees. More techniques are introduced in drawing and painting. Fourth graders continue their study of master artists through the Art Masterpiece program. It is a national art enrichment program that uses reproductions of fine works of art to promote art literacy in children. Parent volunteers bring the prints to the classroom and present a lesson planned for 4th grade. Art Masterpiece lessons are taught on a monthly basis, usually six times per school year. They usually consist of a “hands-on” project. The purpose of the lesson is to increase the child’s awareness of art. As this occurs, students are able to recognize more of the art that they encounter in their world every day.

**MUSIC**

Students in 4th grade attend music class twice per week. SCA’s music program focuses on creating a love and awareness of music in daily life. Children are encouraged to have a heart for worship and glorifying God. Basic note reading, rhythms, and music theory are taught through either band or choir. Student objectives are based on National Music Standards and SCA values.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Students in 4th grade attend computer class twice per week. The technology program focuses on higher order skills and curriculum integration with classroom topics and activities. Computers are used to reinforce the curriculum and provide both guided and independent practice. Student objectives are based on the Arizona Technology Standards and SCA technology goals.

**SPANISH**

Students in 4th grade go to Spanish class once per week. Students will be able to: respond to classroom commands; understand, read, and write vocabulary related to numbers 1-20, colors, family members, clothing; count to 100 by tens; identify people and objects based on oral and written descriptions; greet someone and ask how they are and respond appropriately; ask and answer a question about age; ask for someone else's name and be able to give name when asked; express desire using the verb "I want"; recite a short poem, sing a song, memorize and recite a Bible verse; know and use appropriately the greetings according to the time of day; say goodbye in a variety of ways; use courtesy phrases; using a map of the world, identify parts of the world where Spanish is spoken by coloring in the countries; in a group, make a list of words borrowed from Spanish; compare the consonants in the alphabet.

**RESEARCH SKILLS**

Students in 4th grade visit the library once per week for research skills class. Research skills classes focus on using grade specific critical thinking skills to discover facts and information through the use of online and bound reference materials, and library resources. Research is integrated with classroom curriculum and topics. Critical thinking skills are also developed via genre and author studies.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

4th grade students attend PE class twice per week. They learn the basics of manipulative, loco motor, and non-loco motor movement. They focus on increasing the following skills and incorporating them into higher movement activities:

- Increasing dodging and fleeing skills inside of higher competition
- Increasing fitness skills
- Setting fitness goals
- Understanding the connection between fitness and health
- Leadership skills
- Cooperation, teamwork, and encouragement
- Large muscle movement and body control
- Balance
- Rhythm
- Safety inside of activities
- Following rules and procedures
- Organization
- Listening skills
- Using different pathways, levels, and speeds inside of activities and sports
- Increasing involvement in sport activity
- Practicing successful use and incorporation of all of these skills

**INNOVATION AND CREATION HUB**

Each elementary homeroom class visits the Innovation and Creation HUB once a week. Students focus on STEAM learning (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Students are provided with hands-on learning with activities centered around the problem-solving method of Ask, Discuss, Design, Create, Test and Revise. Activities are determined by the curricular units being studied in homeroom classes and are designed for age appropriate learning. Students are encouraged to take risks whether it is designing a Moon Lander, coding a robot to engage in a specific task, or designing a piece to be 3D

printed. In the HUB students embrace the four C's: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication. These four C's are crucial to fostering innovators and leaders of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**

- Arizona State Capitol
- Arizona Science Center
- Mountain Man Presentation
- Feed My Starving Children
- Discover Northern Arizona
- Explore Southern Arizona

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