

FOURTH GRADE

Holy Trinity Catholic School provides a faith filled learning environment centered on community, leadership and educational excellence rooted in traditional Catholic values.



Holy Trinity Catholic School

Education Rooted in Holiness

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Our Typical Day

A typical day in fourth grade always starts with prayer and the pledge. Daily assignments are always posted on the whiteboard and students can copy them into assignment notebooks. The day then continues with Religion, Reading, Math, and work on a Class Novel. In the afternoon there is Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. There is time for small group instruction, hands-on Science investigations, Social Studies, projects, and group work. Students go to Art, Music, and Physical Education and have a chance to visit the library throughout the week. Read-Aloud from a novel is at the end of the day. This is separate from the Class Novel, that 4th graders read as part of their Reading Curriculum. It's a great way to relax and wind down from a very busy day! Students go through and check off their assignment notebooks to ensure they have the appropriate materials going home and they know what needs to be done when and can take responsibility for getting their own homework done and turned in the next day. Students always end the day with prayer.

Technology Integration

Fourth Graders will work in a 1:1 environment utilizing Chromebooks. Students learn how to be digital citizens with expectations that they show responsible and respectful behavior as virtual students. Throughout their elementary years, students will increasingly experience technology as an educational tool that will allow them to enhance their learning in a variety of ways including: how to navigate the internet to gain knowledge, compose and publish writing, and learning how to use tools such as Google Classroom, IXL and instructional / learning sites and games to allow them to be successful both at Holy Trinity and beyond.

What to Expect in Fourth Grade

Academics

Fourth grade is all about gaining more independence in reading. There is time for decoding and phonics, as well as vocabulary building, retention, and spelling; but more as tools to find meaning and build an understanding of unfamiliar words and build on concepts. Fourth graders read, study, and discuss many longer stories and novels. By the time they leave fourth grade, students can be expected to have their multiplication and division facts memorized. They should be able to do long division and multiply 2 and 3-digit numbers. They should also be able to separate a multi-step problem into smaller tasks and work through them. Fourth graders write a paragraph of the week and students will be able to form a one-paragraph essay with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a strong conclusion. Students have many opportunities to practice narrative essays, opinion pieces, and informational writing. Students also have a language study workbook to practice nouns, verbs, punctuation, and correct grammar for our language. Students build circuits, experiment with magnets, and study waves. They learn how energy is transferred with ramps, races, and collisions with ball bearings. They also study environments and soils, rocks, and landforms. The social studies program focuses on the Great Plains States - from the earliest people, all the way through how the nation was built and how government and trade work. Fourth graders study the Native Americans that lived in Minnesota and the economy and government of our society.

Responsibility

Fourth grade is a time for building independence through responsibility. Most of the responsibility for completing assignments is put on the student. Students should expect about 30 minutes of homework each evening, but that is an estimate and will vary. Students can expect math and spelling homework daily. Assignment notebooks are not routinely checked by the instructor, though they will be from time to time. If a significant number of assignments are missing, the student can then have their assignment notebook checked more frequently by the teacher or parents.

Sports and Clubs

We participate in the Catholic Athletic Association for all sports. Parents, volunteers and staff coach and moderate clubs. Fourth graders can engage in after school sports such as Student council, soccer, volleyball, basketball, Aqua Saints and softball.

Field Trips

The Spring bowling trip is a student favorite that takes place in April at the local bowling alley. Students also travel to the Cathedral in St. Paul for the Rosary Pilgrimage each October!

Why We Love Fourth Grade

CLASSROOM ECONOMY

We have a Classroom Cash Token Economy to keep our fourth-graders engaged and learning!

SIMON SAYS

Instead of Simon Says, we get to play Mrs. Shierts Says!

SCIENCE PROJECTS

We get to build an Electromagnet Science activity for hands-on learning!

SCIENCE PROJECTS

Another awesome Science project we get to create is redesigning the telegraph Science Activity!

WRITING PROMPTS

We do daily and weekly writing prompts. A class favorite is: "When I was teacher for the day"!

STUDYING

Yes, we said studying! We get to play a review Jeopardy game to help us prepare for tests!

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAM

We get to participate in the Statue of Mary at Fatima Pilgrimage Program!

FIELD TRIPS

We get to use our learning in hands-on ways by going on various field trips both on and off-campus!

Religion

The Faith and Life Third Edition series is a comprehensive catechetical series for Grades 1-8. It combines a solid doctrinal text with a scriptural presentation enhanced by beautiful classical and original artwork. Based on the story of Salvation History, each grade level speaks of the historical story of God's love to lead the student to encounter Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- Know, love, and be in a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Explore Scripture as hearers and doers of the word.
- Understand the major teachings of Catholicism
- Know the Church's teaching on the dignity of the human person in its social doctrine, including respect-life teaching
- Learn the richness of the Church's tradition and understand Church history.
- Learn the meaning and practical relevance of current church teachings as presented by the pope, diocesan bishop, Vatican congregations, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Math

Saxon Math is a comprehensive math program that reflects the keystones of mathematical learning that empowers students to foster conceptual understanding and skill development with a cohesive grouping of lessons, explicit instruction, and guided and independent practice.

- Demonstrate fluency with multiplication and division facts.
- Use an understanding of place value to multiply a number by 10, 100, and 1000.
- Multiply multi-digit numbers,
- Estimate products and quotients of multi-digit whole numbers by using rounding,
- Solve multi-step real-world and mathematical problems requiring the use of addition, subtraction, and multiplication of multi-digit whole numbers.
- Represent equivalent fractions using models
- Locate fractions on a number line
- Add and Subtract fractions using models
- Read and write decimals with place value to the thousandth.
- Compare and order decimals
- Round Decimals to the nearest 10th.
- Identify patterns and unknown numbers using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Describe, classify and sketch triangles.
- Describe, classify and draw quadrilaterals, including squares, rectangles, trapezoids, rhombuses, parallelograms, and kites. Recognize quadrilaterals in various contexts.
- Measure angles in geometric figures and real-world objects with a protractor or angle ruler.
- Compare angles according to size. Classify angles as acute, right, and obtuse.
- Find the area of a 2-dimensional figure
- Recognize that translations, reflections, and rotations preserve congruence and use them to show that two figures are congruent.
- Use tables, bar graphs, timelines, and Venn diagrams to display data sets.

Language Arts

Scott Foresman Reading Street is a program that focuses on readying children for college and career readiness. Fourth graders do paragraph of the week writing prompts to develop their creative writing skills. Sadlier Grammar Course program is research-based and prepares students for college and their careers.

- Read fluently with expression.
- Apply phonetic and decoding skills in sounding out words.
- Learn and effectively apply a variety of reading strategies for comprehension.
- Visualize details of a passage.
- Categorize information.
- Clarify by asking questions.
- Recall critical details.
- Identify the purpose of a piece of literature
- Sequence the main idea.
- Make inferences
- Make predictions.
- Draw conclusions.
- Identify points of view.
- State the author's purpose.
- Focus on the development and mastery of story elements: characters, setting, plot, climax, resolution, cause, and effect, compare and contrast, fact or opinion.
- Study a variety of genres. These may include fairy tales, fables, novels, short stories, biographies, poems, and historical fiction
- Read and discuss short stories and excerpts from them, as well as longer novels.
- Students will learn and use the conventions
- of Standard English.
- Students will have knowledge of the language when speaking, writing, reading, and listening.
- Students write a weekly paragraph. We brainstorm, draft, edit, revise and publish.
- Students write opinion pieces on topics, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Science

FOSS (Full Option Science System) is a research-based science curriculum for grades K-8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California, Berkeley. FOSS has evolved from a philosophy of teaching and learning that has guided the development of successful active-learning science curricula for more than 40 years. The FOSS Program bridges research and practice by providing tools and strategies to engage students and teachers in enduring experiences that lead to a deeper understanding of the natural and designed worlds.

- Make observations to provide evidence that energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat, and electric currents.
- Use evidence to construct an explanation relating the speed of an object to the energy of that object.
- Ask questions and predict outcomes about the changes in energy that occur when objects collide.
- Apply scientific ideas to design, test, and refine a device that converts energy from one form to another.
- Develop a model of waves to describe patterns in terms of amplitude and wavelength and that waves can cause objects to move.
- Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.
- Generate and compare multiple solutions that use patterns to transfer information.
- Make observations and/or measurements to provide evidence of the effects of weathering or the rate of erosion by water, ice, wind, or vegetation.
- Obtain and combine information to describe that energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.

Social Studies

The Catholic Textbook project is a comprehensive Social Studies curriculum. [From Sea to Shining Sea: The Great Plains States](#), presents a narrative history of North America, written and designed for upper elementary students.

We are using the text for fourth grade and it will cover well in advance, the Minnesota state history standards which are indicated for 6th grade. Students will be well prepared for Social Studies in 5th grade and Middle School.

A (Very) Brief Content Overview

- Origin of the Great Plains: Native American Legends
- Geological History
- States of the Great Plains
- Native Peoples
- Climate of the Great Plains States
- Explorers, Missionaries and Tribes
- Westward Expansion and United States History
- The Civil War
- WWII and Beyond
- Civil Rights
- Industrialization
- Challenges Today
- Great Plains Catholics of Yesterday and Today

Specialists

Physical Education

Physical Education is twice a week for half an hour. Demonstrate competence in fundamental locomotor, non-locomotor movements and a combination of skills; use basic movement concepts in dance, gymnastics and small sided practice tasks; and recognize the benefits of a physically active lifestyle.

Music

Music is offered once per week for students. This is a chance for students to learn songs sung at Mass on Fridays and engage in hands-on musical experiences through the Prodigies curriculum.

Art

Fourth Graders receive Art class two times per week. Through Deep Space Sparkle Curriculum, fourth graders enjoy creating beautiful pieces of art.

Library

Library is offered once per week for each grade level. Students can browse a wonderful selection of books to enhance their reading skills!

Rooted In Holiness

At a Catholic School, everything fourth graders do is rooted in faith. They go to Mass weekly, pray the Rosary, and do service projects. Students have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent and during Advent.

After Mass, fourth-graders complete a Mass reflection of what they have learned and how they can use it in their lives. The class goes to adoration and tries to serve others in everything they do. Fourth graders solve problems peacefully and practice justice and forgiveness.