

CURRICULUM:

Fourth Grade

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School's Fourth Grade curriculum is fully aligned to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Standards based on Wisconsin state standards. Our Fourth grade curriculum fosters a love of learning while building foundational academic skills. With our approach to learning, teachers emphasize hands-on learning, creativity, and character development in a nurturing environment. Fourth graders are active participants in our school liturgies twice a week.

The Whole Child

A complete Fourth Grade experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Mary's Visitation, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We instill in children the Catholic Values, social skills, manners, independence, and the routine and structure of school. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School endeavors to provide an atmosphere of high expectations that challenge the individual and promote lifelong learning so each student can reach the fullness of his or her individual potential. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these expectations and goals.

Religion

Religious education at St. Mary's Visitation encompasses not only formal religion classes, but also an education in Catholic beliefs and values that is integrated in every aspect of the academic curriculum. Fourth graders learn about their Catholic faith through Scripture stories, prayer, discussion and reflection, music, and weekly liturgies. The Fourth grade religion curriculum we use is called *Spirit of Truth* from Sophia Institute Press and Catholic teachings are discussed and integrated across all subject areas. The following topics are the focus of the Fourth grade religion curriculum:

- Demonstrates the ability to locate passages in the Bible
- Understands that God reveals himself gradually to us
- Names the Holy Days of Obligation
- Explains the ways Christ is present at Mass
- Recognizes the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Prays the Rosary as a group
- Understands and prays the following: the Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Act of Contrition, Glory Be, Hail Holy Queen
- Memorizes the Apostles Creed

English Language Arts

Reading

Fourth grade students experience different genres including classic tales, informational, fiction and nonfiction. In Fourth grade, we utilize *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts* to foster individual student's knowledge and skills. Reading fluency and focusing on background knowledge will develop and improve as students are presented with the following Knowledge through the year:

- Personal narratives
- Poetry
- Informational texts
- Contemporary fiction
- American Revolution
- Geology
- Treasure Island

Writing and Grammar

Fourth grade students will produce works that include the four step writing process: plan, draft, edit, publish. Fourth grade students will use graphic organizers to take notes on information presented in the Readers; paraphrase information from a text; assess information to form an opinion; and draft a persuasive paragraph. They will use *Voyages in English* by Loyola Press which systematically combines grammar and writing into a single consumable book, ensuring students master the mechanics of language while developing strong writing skills.

Speaking and listening

Fourth grade students will listen to others when speaking and participate in collaborative discussions. Students will use language and vocabulary to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. Fourth graders will participate in class discussions along with presenting materials orally. Many lessons provide opportunities for students to collaborate and share ideas.

Mathematics

Fourth grade students use the mathematics curriculum through *Savvas enVision*. Starting on a firm foundation of conceptual understanding, students can connect and apply math ideas in amazing ways. In Fourth grade, students will learn the following topics:

- Place value understanding
- Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers
- Use strategies and properties to multiply by 1-digit and 2-digit numbers
- Factors and multiples
- Understand addition and subtraction of fractions
- Line plots
- Understand and compare decimals
- Algebra: Generate and analyze patterns
- Lines, angles, and shapes

Science

Fourth graders will work collaboratively with each other and use hands-on experiences to understand science and the world that God created around them. Students will take a look at the *HMH Science Dimensions* curriculum to assist with communicating, explaining, analyzing, and understanding. In Fourth grade, students will study:

- Engineering and technology
- Energy
- Waves and information transfer
- Plant/Animal structure and function
- Rocks and fossils
- Natural resources and hazards

Music

Fourth grade students will attend to music class twice a week where they will explore rhythmic and melodic phrases, perform music and show audience etiquette, identify fast and slow tempos, demonstrate high and low pitches, how to connect with our faith and sing music at Mass.

Library

Fourth grade students will visit the school library to choose a book based on interest to be checked out each week.

Social Studies

Fourth graders use the social studies curriculum from the Wisconsin Historical Society called *Wisconsin Our State, Our Story*. Fourth grade students will develop awareness on community and the people around them along with the integration of our Catholic Social Teachings. The focus will be on:

- A place with a past
- Wisconsin's first people
- The Fur Trade Era: Exploration and Exchange
- Wisconsin and the Civil War
- Lead, Soil, and Saw Dust, 1820-1914
- Transportation and Industry Change Wisconsin
- Good Times, Hard Times, and Better Times
- New Opportunities, New Challenges
- A Place with a Future

Physical Education

In Fourth grade, students will explore and demonstrate factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in physical education twice a week to show competency in motor skills and movement patterns. They will also exhibit responsible social behavior that shows respect to self and others. Students will also work collaboratively and cooperatively.

The Arts

In Fourth grade, students will be introduced to various artists including Alma Woodsey Thomas, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hundertwasser. They will be using different art materials such as:

- tempera paint
- oil pastels
- watercolor pens
- colored pencils
- markers

Recess

In Fourth grade students benefit from recess twice a day where they interact with others which offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits.

ST. MARY'S VISITATION
Catholic School † Elm Grove, WI

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.