Parent Guide to Your Child's Fourth Grade Program

Christian Learner/Social Emotional Learner

Christian Learners/Social and Emotional Learners possess skills and attitudes that are the foundation of learning. Our thinking, approach and actions should show everyone we are Christians. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) assists students to gain and apply knowledge, attitudes and skills to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions. The tenets of Christian living and SEL competencies support the individual throughout life. Acting as Jesus would want us to act is the goal of everyone in our Catholic school community- teachers, parents, students, staff, principals and pastors. The skills learned through understanding, adopting and practicing social and emotional competencies and the values of our Christian faith will help ensure your children have a fulfilling life. So, welcome to our Catholic school. We are pleased to partner with you in the education of your children. We promise our prayer and support, and we ask for yours. We trust Jesus to bless the education we offer in His name.

Religion

Your fourth-grade child is very idealistic and sees his self or herself as part of a larger group (human family and God's family). Your child will explore basic concepts about the Creed, Sacraments, Christian Living, and Prayer.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

The Bible teaches about God's goodness and creation of the communion of saints

- The sacraments of Eucharist, Penance
- The Liturgical Year and the feasts of the Lord
- The Commandments and Beatitudes
- The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy
- The mysteries of the rosary and acts of faith, hope, and love

English Language Arts & Literacy

Building the stamina and skills to read challenging fiction, nonfiction, and other materials is fundamental in fourth grade. Your child will continue to learn about the world as well as build vocabulary skills by reading more complicated stories and poems from different cultures and a range of books on history, science, art, and music. Fourth grade students also will make important strides in their ability to explain plainly and in detail what a book says, both explicitly and what is implied from its details. By fourth grade, your child will be writing effective summaries, book reports, and descriptions of characters or events that use correct grammar and punctuation.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Describing the basic elements of stories, such as characters, events, and settings, by drawing on specific details in the text
- Paying close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast

information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points
- Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures
- Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples
- Independently conducting short research projects on different aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet
- Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points
- Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling
- Relating words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (synonyms) and to their opposites (antonyms)

Mathematics

In fourth grade, your child will gain important new skills while continuing to build on what he or she learned the previous year. One of the main areas studied in fourth grade is arithmetic and applying it to solve problems. This is an important life skill, and your child should make significant strides in this area during the year. Your child will also build knowledge and skills with fractions to prepare for mastering this topic in fifth and sixth grades. These skills will help ensure your child is ready for algebra and advanced math.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying 1,638 × 7 or 24 × 17, and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that 1⁄4 is less than 3⁄8 because 2⁄8 is less than 3⁄8)
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as 2 3⁄4 - 1 1⁄4 or 3 × 5⁄8), and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as 62⁄100)
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram

Science

In fourth grade your child will have an experience culmination of the content and the skills of the earlier grades. They will formalize these and be guided to independence in the use of designing and implementing their scientific process, research and organizing their science knowledge and being able to conduct a science experiment individually or in small groups. In grade four, your child will take the New York State Science Assessment which is comprised of two-part science knowledge and science application in lab activities.

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A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Defining and identifying types of energy and ways that energy is increased or decreased
- Observing ways that energy is transferred and the practical need and uses of transferring energy in everyday life
- Investigate how sound and light waves move in patterns.
- Discover the effect of wave amplitude (size) and wave length change results in movement
- Understand how the eye is able to see as a result of reflecting light
- Identify external structures of plants and animals that allow it to process information, survive and meet basic needs
- Study and observe processes that shape the earth including rock formations, weathering and elevated areas as well as depressed areas
- Observe elevated and depressed areas on a contour map

Social Studies

In fourth grade your child will be engaged in a detailed study of New York State with a particular but not exclusive focus on its local history and government. The sub-disciplines of social studies will continue to provide the framework for this study. They will learn its history from its original inhabitants, the Native Americans to its current migrant mix resulting from the wave of Ellis Island and Europe to its modern-day wave of Central and South America. They will learn how natural resources govern where we build our homes, earn a living, develop industries and connect communities. They will come to understand how each of the cultures brought gifts to enrich the overall culture.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Create an understanding of the past by using and analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Distinguish between long-term and immediate causes and effects in community life or current events or history
- Identify regions of New York State by describing characteristic that places it within a certain region and then compare it to other regions
- Explain why individuals and business specialize and trade
- Explain the way government pays for the goods and services that it provides
- Identify various types of political systems used at various times in New York State history and where appropriate, in U. S. History
- Identify rights and responsibilities of a citizen in a community and a state
- Identify significant periods in the history of the state as well as in the growth of the state
- Compare challenges and advantages of living in New York State 100 years ago and now

Physical Education

Your fourth-grade child can concentrate for a longer time and is more coordinated. Group activities are important and interest in them is high. The physical education program includes motor skills, movement, as well as the relationship between physical activity and good health. Participation emphasizes respect for oneself and others.

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A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Running for a distance using a mature pattern
- Combines traveling with manipulative skills of dribbling throwing, catching and striking in small-sided practice tasks
- Transfers weight from feet to hands, varying speed and using large extensions (e.g., mule kick, handstand, cartwheel)
- Throws to a moving partner with reasonable accuracy
- Dribbles with hands and feet while controlling the ball and body while increasing and decreasing speed
- Exhibits responsible behavior in group situations
- Listens respectfully to corrective feedback from peers and/or adults
- Accepts players of all skill levels into the physical activity

Music

During fourth grade your child will build on fundamental skills to refine their performance abilities. Knowledge of music as it relates to daily living will be developed further.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Understanding the structure and elements of music in selected musical performances
- Can explain how context informs a musical performance
- Performing music with others or alone with expression, technical accuracy and interpretation
- Shows an understanding of relationships between music and the other arts and daily life

Art

Fourth grade art is designed to allow your child to use art knowledge to assess and evaluate the intent of the creator of art based on multiple factors. Your child will also create art using techniques and materials selected to respond to his or her creativity, critical thinking and imagination.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Working collaboratively to create artwork that is meaningful and has purpose to the makers
- Analyzing how past, present and emerging technology have impacted the presentation and preservation of artwork
- Creating works of art that reflect cultural traditions
- Exploring and inventing art-making techniques and approaches