



SCIENCE

Fourth grade students will use concrete, hand-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining. Our fourth grade students will study how to:

- Explain relationships of living things to their environment
- Describe characteristics of light and sound
- Describe and use a simple electrical circuit
- Identify and classify rocks
- Identify effects of water and the water cycle
- Describe factors affecting ecosystems

And learn about:

- Digestive, circulatory, and nervous systems
- Senses and sense organs
- Energy and work
- Solar system
- Weather
- Oceans simple machines

SOCIAL STUDIES

Fourth grade students will acquire a social and cultural understanding of the world around them. The focus will be:

- Immigration
- Regions of the United States
- U.S. geography
- U.S. government
- U.S. economy

ART

Fourth grade students continue learning about the principles and elements of art. They have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms. Students are introduced to artists and how their work influenced society. Fourth graders participate in the Diocesan assessment of Optical art.

TECHNOLOGY

In addition to integrating technology and the use of technology tools in the general classrooms, students in 4th grade attend technology class to continue to develop and apply a variety of Microsoft, internet, and other digital tools.

Students will:

- Apply general computer and keyboarding skills
- Use various tools available in Microsoft Word to construct documents
- Use various tools available in Microsoft Excel to develop spreadsheets
- Use various tools in Microsoft PowerPoint to create presentations
- Use the internet safely for research purposes
- Continue to become good digital citizens

LIBRARY

Fourth grade students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week. They will also recognize different sections of the library and know how to use a library.



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School

CURRICULUM: GRADE FOUR





St. Paul the Apostle Catholic School's curriculum is fully aligned to the Diocesan Learning Standards and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Furthermore, our curriculum is vertically aligned from grades preK through 8.

Our curricula is strengthened even more by using a continuous improvement framework based on Response to Intervention/Multiple Tiered System of Supports, scientifically based instructional strategies, formative and summative assessment, and positive behavior management.

RELIGION

Fourth graders learn about their Catholic faith through stories, prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion and reflection, in addition to attending weekly mass. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day. The focus is on the Holy Trinity, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, liturgical seasons, morality, church structure, commandments, beatitudes, saints, and service. They also will learn and recite the Nicene Creed.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The Language Arts program is all-encompassing and includes reading, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

READING

Students experience different genres such as poetry, folktales, literary and informational texts, fantasies, and plays. Reading fluency will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills throughout the year:

- Understanding cause and effect
- Examining and describing elements of literature (plot, characters, setting, theme) within a story
- Identifying figurative language
- Analyzing details
- Developing vocabulary
- Practicing and gaining skills in reading different genres
- Summarizing
- Comparing and contrasting

WRITING

Fourth grade students use writing to convey meaning. Our students will write legibly, write multiple sequential paragraphs on a given topic, and apply grammar and mechanics including parts of speech, simple tenses, and punctuation. Fourth grade students use the 6+1 Traits of Writing program. Furthermore, fourth grade students write in a variety of forms including guided writing, friendly letters, descriptive paragraphs, expository non-fiction, opinion paragraphs, narrative stories, book reviews, and journal entries.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Fourth grade students listen for understanding, follow directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students participate in class discussions. Students present material orally and make presentations to individuals and small groups.

MATHEMATICS

Fourth grade students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve math problems. In all areas students use appropriate tools strategically and attend to precision. Our fourth grade students will:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Become familiar with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns
- Apply place value understanding to read multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic operations
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Apply and extend understanding of whole number operations to fractions
- Understand decimal notation for fractions and compare decimal fractions
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion from larger units to smaller units
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of angles and measure angles
- Draw and identify lines and angles and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles