

FOURTH GRADE: Curriculum Summary

The program of instruction in fourth grade classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based upon the school's philosophy and goals. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from both Christian and secular publishers, select the best material, and write curriculum which employs that material. Studies and activities in each class are based upon the following guidelines:

BIBLE – Integrates lessons from the Old Testament with studies in geography, history, and literature. This study includes the history and application of Psalms and Proverbs and examines the lives and teachings of Old Testament prophets. This class also includes weekly memory work and a study of prayer. The content of the Bible curriculum is interwoven and integrated with other curriculum areas.

CHAPEL – Is held weekly with K4 through 5th grade in attendance; about once every six weeks an all-school chapel assembly is held and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Chapel services have lessons that focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons and include singing and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements or recognitions.

LANGUAGE ARTS – Focuses on reading, language arts, and grammar through a model called Reading Workshop. Emphasis is on the interaction between the readers and the text. Students receive a mini-lesson where they learn models, strategies, and tools for comprehending literature, then apply learnings through independent reading, and close with group discussion and learning sharing. Students learn to ask questions, make connections with prior knowledge and previously read texts, and ask questions to clarify faulty comprehension. Spelling is taught through weekly spelling patterns in interactive notebooks through pattern identification and sorts.

Texts currently in use: Reader's Workshop, Students develop writing, language, and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

MATHEMATICS – Includes mastery of the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) using whole numbers, including multiplication with two- and three-digit multipliers, division with one- and two-digit divisors, and teaches adding, subtracting, and multiplying decimals. This unit also teaches mastery of basic fractional concepts, addition and subtraction of fractions or mixed numbers with common denominators, naming equivalent fractions; and exploring concepts of number relationships, measurement, estimation, and geometry. Students will apply concepts and skills in problem-solving activities.

Text currently in use: *EnVision Math*, Pearson.

SCIENCE – 4th grade has adopted *Science Fusion* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), which focuses on small group, hands-on explorations of real-world science activities, and STEM projects.

This program starts the lesson with a small-group investigation where students collaborate to make observations and record results in data notebooks. The investigation is followed by readings from science materials and group discussions. Each lesson makes real-world and cross-curricular connections to make the learning relevant. It is aligned to TEKS and integrated into BCS grade level standards. It cycles through life science, earth science, and physical science through the school year, providing a balanced science curriculum each year.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Students will study the regions, resources, government, and economic development of Texas, as well as their citizenship of the state of Texas and the United States. This study divides lessons into units that include activity-based projects and projects requiring group and individual research.

Text currently in use: *Texas Weekly Studies*, videos, and online resources.

SPANISH – Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. This class is based on the premise that acquaintance with another language and culture is important in broadening students' horizons and reminding them of the value of all people in God's sight.

ART – One day per week students attend a forty-minute class focused on various art techniques. Art is also integrated into the other core curriculum on a regular basis by the classroom teacher tied to content area studies. This unit uses a variety of media and techniques including markers, crayons, yarn, colored pencils, origami, and chalk. Students work on developing skills in the creation of products such as models, patterns, illustrations, creative borders, displays, character dolls, posters, maps, and independent projects.

MUSIC – Taught daily by two trained music teachers; Elementary Choir emphasizes singing while Beginning Recorder emphasizes learning a new musical instrument. Both classes teach concepts such as rhythm and beat, pitch, volume, and tempo, including more advanced instruction in music theory and preparing students to be good sight-readers of music. Both classes are reinforced by the classroom teacher, especially in devotional activities. Music class combines musical training with performance opportunities in a fall music concert, a spring music concert, and Grandparents' Day program. This study includes *Nutcracker* ballet at the Performing Arts Center in December when available, and Austin Symphony Young People's Concert in the spring.

DRAMATICS – Includes exposure to dramatic presentations by traveling dramatic troupes. This unit involves students in skits illustrating Biblical principles and culminates in a presentation to visiting grandparents on the school's annual Grandparents' Day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Taught by physical education teachers four days a week during a thirty-minute class taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. P.E. includes conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and athletic skills.

COMPUTER LAB – Conducted weekly by a trained computer teacher. Students will begin focusing on using technology to create products that communicate with an audience. They will learn to use presentation software and email. Students will learn more about web browsing and how information is communicated on the Internet. More advanced word processing and formatting skills will also be developed at this level. During the fourth quarter, students will continue learning basic coding/programming by adding concepts such as problem decomposition, functions, nested loops, and conditionals.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

LIBRARY – Features a 45-minute class once a week where students are exposed to quality children's literature and have the opportunity to check out books.

FIELD TRIPS – Taken in connection with and to enhance subject area studies including such destinations as the Sophienburg Museum, Bob Bullock Museum, Sea World, and the *Nutcracker Ballet*.

RECESS – A twenty-minute daily playtime in an outdoor play area providing an opportunity for unstructured recreation.

HOMEWORK – Assigned about four times per week. Homework can include independent reading, spelling mastery, math computation, studying for chapter and unit tests in social studies and science, Bible memory work, and work on independent study projects. See Handbook for time guidelines for each grade.