

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Textbooks & Materials

Spelling (ACSI *Purposeful Design*)

Reading (Pearson)

Novel Units: *Frindle* by Andrew Clements, *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis, and *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio

Book reports

Language (IEW, Fix It Grammar)

Social Studies (MacMillan McGraw Hill *Pennsylvania History*)

US States & Capitols

Science (ACSI *Purposeful Design: Systems*)

Handwriting (*Handwriting Without Tears*)

Math (*Everyday Math*)

Bible (ACSI *Purposeful Design*)

Curriculum Content Overview

Language- IEW

Students continue to develop and use proper grammar in the mechanics of speaking and writing while exploring various types of writing focused on narrative, expository, and descriptive writing. Speaking and writing are viewed as a process that integrates prior knowledge and experience with new thoughts and ideas. The Internet is used for research with a focus on the United States. An appreciation of various forms of speaking and writing is cultivated on a daily basis. Spelling is practiced daily with attention to patterns, prefixes and suffixes, syllabication, and rules. Students explore a variety of venues for self-expression including poetry, book reviews, and both group and individual projects.

Reading- Scott Foresman basal reader

Students explore written and oral language and continue to develop a variety of comprehension skills including drawing conclusions, context clues, identifying main ideas, and making connections to their world. Students are exposed to a variety of genres and practice reading for meaning and fluency across the curriculum with an emphasis on science and social studies. Short stories, nonfiction trade books, novels, read aloud sources, and Internet resources are utilized. Beginning with 4th Grade, students have the opportunity to participate in the county wide Reading Olympics program.

Science- Purposeful Design textbook

Students explore the world around them with attention to God's design as Master Planner in the areas of Life Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and Human Wellness. The topics of Animals, Energy, Light, and Sound, the Hydrosphere and Atmosphere, and Body Systems are explored through experimentation using the scientific method, activities, and journals. Students prepare for interaction in today's world by acknowledging the current worldview and evaluating it through the lens of Scripture.

Social Science- McGraw Hill textbook

Students explore the world of today and yesterday through an examination of history and geography. Critical thinking, study skills, and map skills are developed through a focus on the state of Pennsylvania. Special attention is given to understand and acknowledge the role of the hand of God in history.

Math- Everyday Math textbook

Students continue to develop and build their skills in the areas of numeration, computation, geometry, measurement, data and chance, patterns, functions, and algebra. Emphasis is placed on problem solving and critical thinking, understanding the mathematical thinking and strategies of others, frequent practice of basic skills, and an instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly to ensure full understanding.

Other subjects taught weekly in Fourth Grade

MUSIC

Music is a universal phenomenon, a tool by which we bring glory to God, and an opportunity for self-discovery, cross-cultural connection, intercultural understanding, historical appreciation, and intellectual development.

The course objective is to glorify the Lord through music, develop an appreciation for a wide variety of musical styles, grasp skills of instrumental and vocal performance, and develop personal disciplines of hard work and creative practice.

The whole child will experience music through the following:

Singing Lips

Singing and moving to music. Learning historical and cultural backgrounds of songs.

Thinking Brains

Learning how to read, sing, and play music.

Discuss melodic and rhythmic content of music.

Learn about music's role in the life of the Christian and in the Church, both visible and invisible.

Busy Limbs

Putting concepts and skills into practice through song, playing instruments, dancing, and arranging or composing music. Using programs like Sibelius and Logic Pro to discover new ways of viewing and creating music.

Listening Ears

Listening to classical, folk, world, and pop music to develop critical thinking skills in the area of music.

Evaluating music and performances of music

ART

The VCS art program focuses on understanding that God formed us in his image as creative beings. As a result, each student has been gifted with the ability to create, design, and discover in unique ways. The Elements of Art are introduced and built upon each year through exposure to both traditional and non-traditional art forms, interdisciplinary study, and self-evaluation that focuses more on the learning process than the end product. At VCS we strive to encourage and equip students with creative thinking and reasoning skills that go beyond the art classroom and into all areas of the student's life. At the end of the year, students work is displayed at an art show the chronicles student projects and growth over the year.

TECHNOLOGY

Valley Christian School's objective is to create a self-directed learner. We want the students to solve problems on devices through teacher-guided and self-exploration. By integrating biblical concepts, we teach students personal responsibility with Social Media.

Students focus on Google applications, cyber ethics and keyboarding. Each year students learn new aspects of the applications increasing their skills while integrating the classroom curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are encouraged to achieve a personal physical goal and to gain appreciation for sports and physical activity. Biblically based social skills are acquired through sports and team building. Our physical fitness program emphasizes exercise so students learn to appreciate and incorporate physical fitness into their daily lives to stay healthy. The Presidential Fitness program is a year-end goal. Students work on flexibility, strength, and cardiovascular endurance.

SPANISH

Passaporte al Español (BJU Press) textbook

God is the creator and sustainer of World languages and we can appreciate God's:

- Creativity through cultural diversity
- Character through the speaking, reading and listening of the Spanish language
- Logic and order through learning Spanish grammar

Students would appreciate all of the different cultures and people that God has created and will value their knowledge of Spanish and use it to the glory of God.

Learn vocabulary surrounding various subjects.

Understand and use simple sentence and question structures in listening, speaking, and writing. Explore geography and cultures of various Spanish-speaking countries.

Course content includes:

- Greetings and Introductions
- Numbers
- School Supplies
- Colors
- Shapes
- The Family
- Around the House
- Days of the Week
- Christmas
- The Face and Parts of the Body
- Pets, Farm Animals, and Wild Animals
- Fruits
- Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner
- Alphabet (Letters and Sounds)
- Traveling with Family
- Various Professions
- School Subjects
- Basic introductory grammar