

## OVERVIEW OF FOURTH GRADE

Eugene Christian School is designed for students to live interactively with Jesus Christ and develop excellence in moral character, academics and service to others.

Christ-centered, Bible-based education

- strive for excellence in all things, to glorify God
- think and reason from knowledge of Scriptural principles
- develop a thorough, consistent, Biblically-based, Christian worldview
- apply Biblical principles to every area of life, making life decisions based on Gospel precepts, Godly counsel, and Holy Spirit insights
- develop a sense of purpose and destiny with awareness that God has a plan for their lives •
- prepare to fulfill God's calling and assignments
- love God and desire to serve and glorify Him (Colossians 1:16-18)
- love Jesus and accept Him as Savior and Lord, trusting Him for eternal life (Romans 10:13)
- develop a personal relationship with God, knowing, loving, and fearing Him (Proverbs 1:7; 2:1-15; Matthew 22:35-37)

Develop Moral Character

- We are committed to developing our students' inner lives by immersing them in the teachings of Jesus and putting them into practice.

Personalized Academic Program

- We are committed to educating students, no matter their strengths or weaknesses, on an individualized basis in order to achieve learning goals.

Serving the Community

- We are committed to fulfilling the greatest commandment through a worldview that says all people, regardless of status or condition, deserve to be loved.

## CHAPEL & SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Students participate in weekly chapel to pray, worship, and learn about God's Word and promises. The chapel program consists of practical monthly teachings deriving from Matthew 6:33: "Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all of things will be provided for you." Students also engage at the classroom level in Bible reading, verse memorization, and character trait development.

All grade levels gather together during the first Friday of every month to worship together in our performing arts center, and many times the worship is led by our own ECS students. In addition, student recognition awards are given out to students who demonstrate Christ-like character and growth (2 Peter 1).

Students are surrounded by staff at ECS that are committed to growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord. The staff desire to serve as role models for students in daily interactions, teaching, and problem solving. Ultimately, the emphasis in spiritual growth is focused on the "inner" life and how it spills over to our visible or "outer" life. Teachers model this growth process through classroom prayer and discussion, Bible studies, testimonies, and other curriculum resources. Our emphasis is on God developing character through the growth pattern described in 2 Peter 1. It is there we find the seven values taught for growth in Christ and the beginning of a life-long journey with the Lord:

- Goodness (excellence in things, moral goodness)
- Knowledge (full of wisdom in making choices)
- Self-Control (knowing what I truly need)
- Perseverance (joy through trials)
- Godliness (living as God intended)
- Mutual affection (valuing others)
- Love (willing the good for others)

## READING

4th grade uses the Common Core Literacy Standards to drive instruction. The curriculum used will align to these learning targets for 4th grade and will come from our current ECS SRA Open Court Reading adoption and various other comprehensive resources that provide all kinds of (example: informational) texts. Time is spent as a whole group for (entire class) reading instruction and in ability leveled (differentiated) novel groups. Students will focus on comprehension, fluency (words per minute) and vocabulary. Students are required to ALWAYS have a chapter book (ACSI recommended book list is available) they are reading and should read approx. 20 minutes per evening. Some concepts that students will focus on are: author's purpose, plot lines, making inferences, text structure, summarizing and main ideas, "Close Reading Strategies", narration, comparing two texts, and figurative language.

## WRITING

We will use the Four Square Writing approach and the traditional writing process with adult assistance (prewrite, rough draft, edit/revise and final draft) for written work. Several writing projects will be assigned over the year: State Report, Native American Report, Explorer Summary, Science Slide Show, Oregon Trail Journal etc. Students will be required to research, gather evidence and organize clear notes. With stamina, 4th graders will write the following pieces: informational writing, opinion writing, and narrative writing. Keyboarding and computer skills are an essential part of the writing process. Writing will be integrated across all subject areas.

## LANGUAGE AND GRAMMAR

English grammar is taught using Daily 5 Minute Grammar. 4th graders will focus on using correct conventions, spelling, punctuation, word use, and sentence fluency across all subject areas. Some concepts that will be taught, include but are not limited to: appropriate verb tenses, prepositional phrases, quality sentences formation, correct quotation usage, antonyms/synonyms, explaining figurative language (i.e. similes, metaphors and idioms), dictionary skills, Greek and Latin Roots, using context clues, and relative pronouns and adverbs.

## SPELLING

The Association of Christian Schools International, Purposeful Design, is the text used for Spelling. The goal of this curriculum is a basic mastery of words grouped into units according to common sounds, letters, prefixes, suffixes, or letter combinations. Biblical integration is a part of each unit.

## HANDWRITING

The D'Nealian cursive handwriting style is taught and encouraged in K - 4th grade, along with modeling it in all subject areas.

## TECHNOLOGY

Basic computer skills, keyboarding, document formatting and publishing will also both be taught in the classroom and in our computer lab. Students each have their own Google Chromebook for classroom use. We will focus on digital safety, using the Google Suite (Documents, Forms, Drawing and Slides), and Google Classroom.

## MATHEMATICS

iReady, which is aligned to the CCSS learning standards and SRA Real Math, is the curriculum we use to provide a comprehensive mathematics program that students use in their everyday life. Homework will be differentiated and sent home as needed. The math standards require students to have a greater depth of understanding and to persevere! In Grade 4, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; (2) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of

fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; (3) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry. The key proficiencies include becoming proficient in the following areas: Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Number and Operations in Base Ten, Number and Operations in Fractions, Measurement and Data, and Geometry. The practices we will focus on are: (1) Making sense of problems and persevere in solving them, (2) Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively. (3) Constructing viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. (4) Model with mathematics. (5) Use appropriate tools strategically. (6) Attend to precision. (7) Look for and make use of structure. (8) Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

#### BIBLE

Fourth grade at ECS uses Purposeful design publications to cover studies in the basic doctrines of the Church. Daily devotions are read from Jesus Calling by Sarah Young or the One Year Book of Devotions for Kids #3. We also spend daily time in prayer and in scripture memory. Our scripture memory coincides with what is being presented in Chapel. In 4th grade, students are expected to memorize a required verse(s) every two weeks.

#### SCIENCE

God is the creator of all things! Science is a key area in which humanism attempts to distort the truth. Our Science 4 curriculum by Bob Jones Publishing presents God as the author of order. We will be covering Life in God's Creation, energy in use, gravity in action, the earth for our use, and the body at work. It emphasizes connections among observing, classifying, and interpreting data. We will focus on the Scientific Process and project based learning to share our information in class.

#### HISTORY

In history, we can see how God deals with man directly and allows all things to happen for an eternal purpose. Through our study of U.S. History we can see the sovereign hand of God mightily at work. 4th graders focus on the history in the years 1492 (New World Exploration) to 1860's where, Americans traveled and started a life out West, in Oregon. 4th graders will be required to complete several project based learning activities in history that also integrate Writing, Research and Reading. Some include creating a dough map, a Native American Report, an Oregon Region brochure and a U.S. Timeline.

#### ART

Art will be integrated into all subject areas. 4th graders will focus on Art history, famous artists, lines, colors, and publication of Art. Digital expression of our artwork and computer formatting will also be an area of focus.

Students will participate weekly in MUSIC, LIBRARY, PE, and COMPUTER classes.

#### FIELD TRIPS

May include: Lane County Historical Museum, Oregon State Capital, Dorris Ranch, Singing Creek Educational Center.