

# 4 Fourth Grade



## curriculum overview

### Curriculum and Instruction

Curriculum can be described as “*what we teach.*” While a textbook may be used as a tool in this process, it is not the only resource or method used in instruction. Instruction can be described as “*how we teach,*” and the distinctive in Christian education is that all subjects are taught from a biblical worldview. This curriculum overview gives a summary of the basic content covered for the year. It also addresses some commonly asked questions: What is taught in this grade? What curriculum is used? What experiences will my child have in this grade? What can I expect my child to know by year’s end?'

The teachers and staff at Tree of Life Christian Schools are committed to offering a balanced instructional program and establishing a positive learning environment for students. Teachers bring a unique perspective to a particular grade through their own personal experiences, additional materials and resources, hands-on activities, field trips, and guest speakers. Together, these opportunities allow each student to best learn the required content.

### Core subjects

#### o Language Arts

It is the desire of Tree of Life Christian Schools to provide opportunities for students to develop writing skills, reading fluency and comprehension, oral communications, listening techniques and critical thinking. Content in 4<sup>th</sup> grade builds on skills previously taught.

Reading comprehension, reading for information in content areas, ability to organize what is read, application of what is read, and motivating interest in reading are all emphasized. Students are taught spelling, applied spelling, penmanship, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization skills which are used in creative writing, book reports, essays and content area reports. Other content includes:

- Vocabulary/Word Patterns and Meanings (homonyms, synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs /prefixes/suffixes/ similes/metaphors)
- Dictionary/thesaurus/reference skills
- Process writing
- Literary text (setting, plot, conflict, point of view)
- Technical and Persuasive Text
- Parts of speech
- Selected novels
- Book-It Program

#### o Social Studies

In fourth grade social studies content and concepts are investigated through the strands of learning of history, government, citizenship, economics, geography, people and places with a biblical worldview.

Topics studied include:

- Ohio history/Early Ohioans
  - Regional geography
  - U.S. History, Overview of US Historical Documents
  - Levels of government
  - Map and Globe skills
  - Cultures/Missions
- Related Activities:
- Creating a business
  - Ohio Day
  - Edison Report/Famous Ohioan
  - Visiting State House/Indian Mounds
  - Related historical novels and Christian biographies

o What is taught in this grade?

o What curriculum is used?

o What experiences will my child have in this grade?

o What can I expect my child to know by year’s end?'

#### o Mathematics

Students acquire knowledge and skills and develop an understanding of mathematics from their own experience. Our math curriculum builds upon the concrete foundations of mathematics and leads towards an understanding of the abstract and symbolic.

It also provides multiple exposures to topics and offers frequent opportunities for review and practice of skills:

- Review of addition/subtraction facts
- Multiplication facts
- Review place value to hundred millions
- Introduce place to billions
- Read and write decimals to hundredths and thousandths
- Add & subtract decimals
- Introduce exponential notation
- Find equivalent fractions
- Find fraction/decimal equivalents
- Solve multidigit addition and subtractions problems
- Solve multidigit multiplication problems
- Solve multidigit division problems
- Introduce percentages
- Solve open sentences
- Introduce positive and negative numbers
- Review properties of polygons, angles, triangles
- Construct angles, triangles, circles, and polygons
- Measure distance using metric system
- Organize and display data in bar and line graphs

### Tree of Life Christian School - Elementary Branches

Dublin Branch (P-5) · 2900 Martin Road · Dublin, OH 43017 614.792.2671

Indianola Branch (P-5) · 2141 Indianola Avenue · Columbus, OH 43201 299.4906

Westerville Branch (Preschool only) · 471 E. College Avenue \* · Westerville, OH 43081 614.818.4405

# 4 Fourth Grade

## o Bible

Daily Bible lessons and weekly memory verses emphasize life-application and values. Students are encouraged early on and guided to develop a personal and private devotional and prayer time using the Word to know the Father and His Son in a personal way. While Bible is taught as a separate subject, a biblical worldview is integrated into all subject areas.

Curriculum includes an apologetic study of the Bible, its validity as truth, and its history, the Apostle Paul's missionary journeys and epistles. Students journal and have a purposeful time of prayer through the use of the ACTS method. Yearly theme: **The God of Purpose**

Quarterly Themes:

- **Inspiration and Preservation of the Bible**
- **The Young Church Tells the Good News**
- **Paul's Mission to Spread the Good News**
- **Living Purposefully for God**

## o Science/Health

Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are taught units incorporating Life Science, Physical Science, and Earth Science. Students learn to gather and recall information, understand and interpret information, and apply information to new situations. The material is taught through a biblical worldview.

Topics include:

- **Design, order, diversity and systems of life**
- **Classification**
- **Habitats/Food webs**
- **Conservation**
- **Energy – Heat/Thermal, Light/Sound, Motion/Force, Matter**
- **Earth, Water, Air and Space**
- **Body Systems**

### Resources & Texts

**Bible:** Standard Publishing: Biblical Choices; NIV Bible • **Reading:** Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; selected novels • **English:** Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; Shurley English • **Handwriting:** Zaner Bloser method • **Spelling/Phonics:** Houghton Mifflin • **Science and Health:** Purposeful Design Publications • **Math:** Everyday Mathematics including on-line Math games • **Social Studies:** Macmillan/McGraw-Hill • **Technology Integration** • Other miscellaneous materials

## Specials

### o Music

The music program for grades 1-5 emphasizes music appreciation and the teaching of basic music skills through singing, movement, and playing of instruments, particularly the recorder in fourth grade.

They learn to glorify God through praise and worship and in participation in a musical. Students may also attend the Young People's Concert presented by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra

### o Physical Education

The goal of Tree of Life is to promote the spiritual, mental, and physical well-being of students. The physical education program fosters an enjoyment of physical activity through the teaching of both individual and team sports, as well as developing motor skills, strength, flexibility and cardio-respiratory fitness – includes The Presidential Fitness Program.

## Extra curriculars

### o Field Trips

Classes go on specific, purposeful field trips that enrich units of study from a variety of subjects. These may vary from year to year depending on availability, class focus, and scheduling.

- **Waste Management Plant/ Water treatment plant**
- **Hopewell Mounds**
- **Ballet or Theater**
- **State House of Ohio**
- **Ohio Historical Village**
- **Slate Run**
- **Library**
- **NDP Statehouse Observation**
- **Columbus Symphony**

### o Art

Students experience art through a variety of mediums and they will learn to appreciate art through the study of famous artists and in the recognition of the elements of art in both man-made works and the natural world created by God. Creativity and individuality are encouraged in the art classes, which are held once a week.

### o Chapel

Grades 1-5 attend chapel twice a month. Chapel includes worship through singing, Bible reading, and application of biblical truths at an appropriate level. Students are challenged to live out their faith. Missions are emphasized in our chapels so that students will understand their part in the Great Commission.

### o Library

During weekly library visits, students learn parts of a book, genres of literature, award books, authors and illustrators, how to use reference materials, and the Dewey Decimal System. Picture books, nonfiction books and novels are also read aloud to the students.

### o Service Projects

Students will participate in both class and school-wide projects designed to help students follow God's precepts in reaching out in love to others, both in the community and around the world.

### o Special Events

- **Thanksgiving Celebration/service project**
- **Mini Corporation Day/ Business Day/Barter Day**
- **Business Day**
- **Ohio Day/ Famous Ohioan**
- **Farmer Boy Breakfast**
- **Authors' Teas- A fun way to share writings**