

CLASS SUMMARY – GRADE 4

MARTIN LUTHER ACADEMY
7112 N. OVERLAND DRIVE
KANSAS CITY, MO 64151

RELIGION

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *One in Christ: Grade 4 (Concordia Publishing House, 2011), The Holy Bible-English Standard Version (Concordia Publishing House, Text Edition 2011), Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation-English Standard Version (Concordia Publishing House, 1991)*

Course Description: Students will be taught about key concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace while focusing specifically on the actions of our God on behalf of His people. Lessons are taught in a chronological order beginning with the creation of all things by God and span through the formation of the early church. Each lesson is centered on the cross of Christ and is grounded in the Word of God, through which the Holy Spirit Works to create, strengthen, and sustain saving faith. Memory work will be assigned and recited or written weekly. Memory work is usually Bible verses connected to our daily lessons. Materials used are Bibles, Catechisms, student workbooks, Hymns of the Month, Hymns of the Season, and All God's People Sing!

MATHEMATICS

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *Saxon Math 14 and 15 (Saxon Publishers, 2008)*

Course Description: Students will progressively learn a series of topics which are grouped into nine strands: Numbers and Operations (Numeration, Basic operations in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, Properties of numbers and operations, Fraction, decimals and percents, Estimation), Algebra (Patterns, relations and functions, Variables expressions and equations), Geometry (Basic terms, Properties and relationships of lines, Angles, 2-Dimensional figures, 3-Dimensional figures, Coordinate geometry), Measurement (Measuring physical attributes, Systems of measurement, Solving measurement problems, Use appropriate measurement instruments), Data Analysis and Probability (Data collection and representation, Data set characteristics, Probability), Problem Solving (Focus strategies), Communication, Mathematical Reasoning, Connections. Students will use a text book and worksheets to study these topics. Written homework will be given each day other than test or investigation days, which occur every 5 lessons.

READING

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *Reading (MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, 2005)*

Course Description: Students use a reading text book, work book, and trade books to explore the themes of: Reflections, Something in Common, Our Voices, Just Curious, Make a Plan and Sorting It Out. The comprehension skills taught are: story elements, inferences, problem/solution, main idea, compare and contrast, draw conclusions, fact and non-fact, steps in a process, judgments and decisions, summarize, author's purpose, point of view, and cause and effect. There will be a book report each quarter on a book agreed upon by student and teacher. Reading logs will be done every week for a grade. There is a requirement of 120 minutes of reading per week. All students will also participate in the Accelerated Reader program offered through the school.

ENGLISH

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *The Shurley Method (Shurley Instructional Materials, 1997)*

Course Description: Students will use workbooks, jingles, journals and writing materials to learn and apply grammar skills. Grammar objectives taught are: parts of speech, sentence types, punctuation, and capitalization. New vocabulary words are introduced and reinforced throughout the year. Writing objectives are: expository, persuasive, descriptive, narrative, letters, and poetry. Writing skills will be combined with technology to research topic ideas and present their writing in different forms.

SPELLING

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *Spelling Practice Book, McGraw-Hill*

Course Description: Students will practice weekly lists of words through classroom activities and tests. These lists will consist of words from the reading curriculum. Challenge words will be available as needed.

HANDWRITING

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *Zaner-Bloser*

Course Description: Students will master the formation of upper and lower case letters, using the Zaner-Bloser method. Students will also practice making the transition from Handwriting class to other class work in writing neatly.

SCIENCE

Teacher: Mr. Blouch

Text: *Science A Closer Look (Macmillan McGraw-Hill)*

Course Description: A textbook, inquiry based activities, and work pages will be used for the following four units of study: Living Things (Kingdoms of Life, The Animal Kingdom), Ecosystems (Exploring Ecosystems, Surviving in Ecosystems), Matter (Properties of Matter, Matter and Its Changes), and Forces and Energy. Students will practice the note-taking process throughout the year and learn to use the book to find answers. They will also discover Science through hands on activities and labs.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Teacher: Mrs. Blouch

Text: *United States Early Years– Timelinks (MacMillan/McGraw-Hill, 2009)*

Course Description: We will study the timeline from the Native Peoples of North America through the Reconstruction of our country after the end of the Civil War. It is quite a journey and I enjoy teaching American History immensely. They will have a United States Map test at the end of the year and we will study diligently for that when the time comes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Teacher: Mrs. Engle

Text: *None*

Course Description: Students will engage in exercise and running each class period, in order to maintain and/or improve strength, flexibility, and endurance. They will learn various group games, and will practice motor skills needed for various sports, such as kicking, throwing, balancing, etc. Students will also participate in testing for the Presidential Youth Fitness Program.

CHOIR & Music

Teacher: Mr. Olson

Text: *Fun With The Recorder (Mel Bay Publications, 1971), Recorder Karate (Plank Road Publishing, 2002)*

Course Description: Students will explore melody and rhythm by studying multicultural music. Students will be introduced to multiple forms of musical history and instrument families. Christian songs are learned to be shared in church or chapel services along with the Christmas program and other needs of a given academic year.

SPANISH

Teacher: Mrs. Engle

Text: *Elementary Spanish Learning Partner Guidelines (Northern Arizona University, 2005)*

Course Description: DVDs and corresponding activity sheets are used to teach Spanish vocabulary and sentences for 5 units. Family, color, calendar, room, body, season, weather, food, and number words are learned throughout these units.

ART

Teacher: Mrs. Meier

Text: *Arts Attack (Arts Attack Publications, 1996)*

Course Description: A series of DVDs is used to teach the students the elements and principles of art and drawing, as well as to study the art of other artists and cultures. The concepts of line, color, shape and form, pattern, texture, space, and composition are taught, using various art medium. Some of the art projects require following explicit directions, while others allow the child to be more creative. Other art projects are done under Mrs. Meier's direction that connects with other curriculum being learned and for holiday/seasonal projects that emphasize the elements of art.

COMPUTERS

Teacher: Mrs. Meier

Text: *None*

Course Description: Students will learn to be powerful users of 21st Century learning tools. In computer class, students will work primarily on typing skills and basic computer software and internet tools. They will learn to use technology as a tool for improving learning. Students will spend a significant portion of time using Typingweb to perfect typing skills.