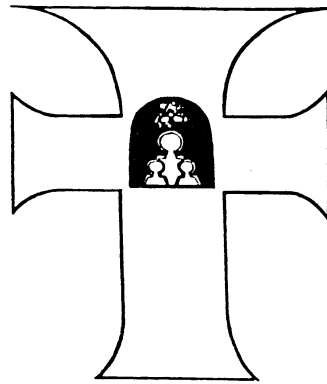


# *Noonan Elementary Academy*



## *Fourth Grade Curriculum*

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence  
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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# *Fourth Grade Curriculum*

## *Academic Program*



### *Religion /Scripture*

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Faith and Life, published by Ignatius Press. It is a comprehensive Catholic program that combines beautiful classical and original art work with a solid doctrinal and scriptural presentation. These texts according to Bishop Thomas Muldoon are unsurpassed in lucidity of doctrine, in fidelity to God's revelations, and in stimulation of real interest and love for the Faith.

Fourth grade: "Jesus Our Guide"

### *Aim*

To help fourth grade students understand their purpose and goal in life, and to see God's plan in history and society to lead us all to Heaven, our true, eternal home.

### *Theme*

God's plan to save his people from sin (Salvation History), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to Heaven through his word, his law, and his Church.

## *Religion /Scripture continued*

### *Sequence*

#### **B.C. Before Christ**

Ch. 1-14: The fall and the first murder. The sin and suffering of mankind. God chooses his people and their leaders.

#### **A.D. In the Year of Our Lord**

Ch. 15-30: History changes when Jesus the King comes. Through grace, especially in the sacraments, we receive the strength to do good.

### *Reading/Language Arts*

This research based program gives students the means to become independent readers by:

- † Developing phonemic awareness
- † Developing comprehension
- † Practicing skills in writing

The Open Court Collections for Young Scholars transcends traditional reading programs.

#### **Features of this series:**

- † Award winning fiction and non-fiction selections from renowned writers and illustrators.
- † Science and social studies themes.
- † A moral or virtue value in every story.
- † Systematic instruction organized in unit themes around engaging concepts.
- † Phonics, comprehension, and writing built into every lesson.

#### **Selections include:**

Poetry

Fiction

Illustrated Classics

Riddles

Character Tales

## *Reading/Language Arts continued*

Folktales

Plays

Nonfiction

Art

This series stresses all the traditional reading skills that develop fluent readers. It then goes beyond the mechanics of reading, and stretches the mind and imagination of the reader. The goal of the series is to develop critical, independent readers.

## *Supplemental Readers*

† Bible History

† Bennets Book of Virtues for Young People

† Lives of the Saints for Children

† Parent approved chapter books

† Quick Reads (fluency program)

Themes for the fourth grade texts :

† Risks and Consequences

† Business

† Medicine

† Surviving

† Technology

† Colonial life

## *Writing*

Fourth graders learn to use writing as a means of expression. Focus is on the appropriate grammar and sequence. Students will continue to develop expertise in:

† Narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive essays

† Journal writing

† Outlines

† Poetry

## *Writing continued*

- † Use of vivid language and sensory images
- † Fictional stories
- † Character sketches
- † Use of similes
- † Book reports

## *English*

A firm grasp of the structure and use of language is critical to successfully harnessing the power of the written word. Mastery of proper grammar, usage, and mechanics is the goal of the comprehensive grammar program in Shurley English. The workbook provides the added reinforcement students need. Skills developed or reinforced in the fourth grade:

- † Regular verbs
- † Verb phrases
- † Linking verbs
- † Future tense verbs
- † Proper adjectives
- † Compound subject
- † Compound predicate
- † Diagramming simple sentences
- † Abbreviations
- † Direct quotations
- † Outline form
- † Double negatives

## *Spelling*

Students are taught spelling rules, patterns, and high frequency words in a structured spelling program by Scott Foresman called Everyday Spelling. These skills are integrated into the phonics and reading program.

## *Vocabulary*

The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use the richer vocabulary in everyday speech
- † Incorporate new vocabulary in writing assignments

## *Analogies*

Ridgewood Analogies groups analogous relationships into five categories: descriptive, comparative, categorical, serial, and causal, with three levels of difficulty within each category. As they solve and create analogies, students actively process information, make important connections, use information and skills to identify relationships, construct relationships and generate new knowledge, and improve critical thinking and long-term memory.

## *Math*

Saxon's math series is a hands on, activity centered, success orientated program that incorporates manipulative and mental math. The program is based upon incremental development and continual review. The students develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. It covers the following fundamentals:

- † Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- † Write numbers in expanded form
- † Identify place value
- † Identify prime and composite numbers
- † Identify perfect squares, cubes, square roots and cube roots
- † Add and subtract decimals
- † Add and subtract positive and negative numbers
- † Write fractions as percents

## *Math continued*

- † Volume of rectangular prisms
- † Identify the probability of an event
- † Find the mean
- † Geometry – polygons, perpendicular lines, obtuse triangle

## *Science*

The Macmillan/McGraw-Hill Series provides a blend of concepts, inquiry, and hands-on content. Students are exposed to the process skills needed to form and test hypothesis. The units taught are:

### **Life Science**

- † Comparing living things
- † Plant reproduction
- † Adaptations
- † Ecology

### **Physical Science**

- † Classifying matter
- † Investigating motion
- † Forms of energy

### **Earth Science**

- † The changing earth
- † The earth's resources
- † Climate and weather
- † The Solar System

## *Supplemental Readers*

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
  - Shaping Earth's Surface*
  - Life Cycles*
  - Animals in Their Habitats*

## *Social Studies*

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill prepares students for informed participation in tomorrow's America. This comprehensive social studies program presents a mixture of history, geography, economics, citizenship, and culture. The fourth grade text, Illinois and Our Nation, explores themes that focus on:

- † The United States: Past and Present
- † Exploring and settling America
- † The struggle for independence; life in a growing nation and world
- † Toward the modern age
- † Our country's regions, climates, government, and economy
- † Toward Our democratic values

## *Geography*

A comprehensive map skills program from National Geographic called, Map Essentials, covers map skills. Concepts covered in fourth grade are:

- † Mapping the world
- † Big River
- † Elevation
- † Volcanoes and Earthquakes
- † Hot/Cold: Wet/Dry
- † Tornado Alley
- † Time Zones
- † Population Maps
- † Trade maps

## *Supplemental Readers*

- † National Geographic Theme Sets
  - Places and Events*
  - Providing Goods*

## *Health*

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use
- † Safe use of medication

## *Library/Computers*

These skills are introduced in the library/media center and computer lab for integration into the curriculum to help children learn how to research and process information.

## *Physical Education*

Fourth grade students learn to move their body through space with greater speed, agility, and accuracy. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Student activities relate to:

- † Muscle strength, endurance, and flexibility
- † Exercise and fitness
- † Moving with coordination
- † Rules, safety, and strategies of sports and games
- † Sportsmanship

## *Art*

The art program exposes children to a variety of art forms and artists. Students will:

- † Enjoy creating their own art
- † Express their individuality through art
- † Learn to interpret artistic works
- † Study the lives of great artists

## *Music*

Fourth graders will enjoy:

- † Expressing themselves in song
- † Following a tune
- † Identifying musical notes and rhythm patterns
- † Distinguishing elements of music
- † Interpreting musical compositions

## *Spanish*

Elementary Spanish is an award-winning program for grades 1-8 from Northern Arizona University. The curriculum is organized by thematic units. The program uses songs, games, natural conversation, and role-playing to create a fun, non-threatening environment.

# *General Information*

## *Report Cards/Progress Reports*

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period. Students in need of academic assistance will receive a progress report at the end of the five-week point or half way through the marking period.

## *Parent Conferences*

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

## *Homework*

For children to achieve mastery, reinforcement is absolutely necessary. Homework is assigned, as needed, for practice and special projects.

Expect to give some assistance. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for study
- † Discourage, or prohibit, T.V. on school nights
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (8 hours for fourth graders)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Read to your child
- † Listen to your child read
- † Keep communication lines open with the school

