**Fourth Grade Overview**

**Religion:** *One in Christ* is a study of various Bible stories from both the Old Testament and the New Testament.  Students learn of God’s love and care for people through the ages. Fourth graders study some of the miracles of Jesus.  They memorize selected Bible verses as well as The Ten Commandments, Books of the Bible, and the Lord’s Prayer as written in Luther’s Small Catechism.   Each Wednesday students attend a school chapel service. Prayer and sharing from God’s Word are intertwined throughout the day.

**Reading:** In the *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys* students read stories from many genres.   They are exposed to non-fiction, biographies, fantasy, mystery, historical fiction, realistic fiction, legends, tall tales, and poetry.  Skills such as paraphrasing, visualizing, cause and effect, compare and contrast, and summarizing are taught in conjunction with the stories.   Fourth graders do book report projects based on independent reading. Our Reading program also provides instruction in synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, and vocabulary.

**Writing:** Our writing program is intertwined in our English and reading curriculum.   Fourth graders participate in journal writing. They learn to write persuasive paragraphs.   Some editing and revising skills are also introduced. In English and Reading students write various types of paragraphs as well as reactions to the stories.  Students are occasionally required to write in cursive and are encouraged to write neatly in all subject areas.

**English:** The students at Trinity use the *Houghton Mifflin English* program.   With constant repetition and classification of sentences, students learn the parts of speech.  Many other grammar skills such as punctuation, and letter writing are taught.

**Spelling:** *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys* supplies our spelling units as well as reading curriculum. It is used to increase vocabulary and spelling skills.  These lists focus on a specific sound, pattern, or topic such as homophones. Biweekly spelling tests are given.

**Math:** We use *Saxon Math* for mathematics*.* Fourth graders concentrate on learning the basic facts in all four operations by memory.  They experience exercises in place value, time, graphing, geometry, measurement, multiplying and dividing by two-digit numbers, fractions, decimals, estimation and mental math.

**Social Studies:** Fourth grade students use the McGraw-Hill *Regions of the United States*.  The students learn about different regions and their states in the United States of America. They learn the resources, history, landforms, and how regions have grown over the years.

**Science:** Nancy Larson *Science* is the curriculum followed in fourth grade.   The fourth graders will be taught units on: Biology, Botany, Zoology, Ecosystems, Energy, and Electricity.

**Art:** Fourth graders have art instruction each week.   There is a focus on the elements of art (line, shape, form, color, texture, and light) while fostering creativity.   Other seasonal projects are introduced to encourage self-expression.

**Music:** Students have music instruction twice a week.   The curriculum involves singing, listening and playing simple instruments.   Fourth graders are usually involved in two musicals, both the Christmas and the spring musical.   They learn a variety of Christian songs and hymns and are encouraged to attend Trinity worship services when scheduled to sing throughout the year and also several times during the school year at Chapel Services.  Fourth graders may also learn to play a musical instrument. They have weekly lessons and participate in a recorders program during the school day.

**Physical Education:** Fourth graders participate in a physical education program that promotes activities that develop strength, endurance and flexibility.   They also learn basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on teamwork and good sportsmanship.

**Computer:** Fourth graders use computers often during the school week.  Lessons in typing and MYON digital reading are both part of the curriculum.

**Other Experiences:** Fourth graders participate in Accelerated Reader. Once a year to celebrate Arbor Day fourth graders are given a tree from the Missouri Department of education.  They learn about that specific species of trees. Once a year students participate in a program teaching them about other countries including but not limited to their: culture, landforms, and wildlife.