



## FOURTH GRADE CURRICULUM-South Campus

### **CHAPEL**

Once a week, the faculty and student body in the elementary grades gather together in the Sanctuary to express devotion to our Lord through praise and worship. The first Wednesday of the month the whole school meets for Chapel. Biblical truths and principles of life are taught by our staff, pastors and guest speakers. We welcome parents to attend with their children and worship with us.

### **BIBLE/CHARACTER FOUNDATION**

Bible study is an integral part of the school curriculum at Crosshill Christian School. The Scriptures are studied in such a way that a child will discover and be able to apply the relevance of the Bible and its principles to everyday situations and experiences. Students study daily in the classroom environment where a variety of approaches and techniques are used to discover Biblical meanings and principles. Special emphasis is given to the following character traits through the ACSI character curriculum: wisdom, obedience, responsibility, attentiveness, faith, sensitivity, thankfulness, orderliness, courage, meekness, loyalty, joy, self-control, honesty, helpfulness, diligence, patience, dependability, initiative, love and resourcefulness.

Crosshill Christian School utilizes the ACSI Purposeful Design Bible curriculum as a guideline for Biblical scope and instructional sequence. The fourth grade book covers Christian theology in an exciting and understandable manner. There is a strong emphasis on Bible study tools and skills, essential doctrines of the Bible, and application lessons on prayer, devotions, personal evangelism and holding onto the Truth.

### **GRAMMAR AND WRITING**

Bob Jones University Press authors the grammar and writing program for grades K through six. The grammar lessons provide easy instructions on how to teach grammar for understanding. The grammar units cover many topics, including sentence structure, diagramming sentences, nouns, plurals, verbs, direct objects, study and reference skills, pronouns, past, present, and future tense, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositions. The writing lessons explain how to write in a variety of genres using the Writing Process (prewrite/plan, rough draft, edit, revise, publish). During the year we write personal narratives, friendly letters, book reviews, imaginative stories, and a research report. Student writing is enhanced through one-on-one writing conferences with the teacher, as well as an author's chair where students get to share their published work.

### **READING**

The reading program in 4<sup>th</sup> grade places a large emphasis on comprehension and the expansion of critical thinking skills. In-depth novel studies help students learn to apply their critical thinking skills in a practical way. During the course of the year students will read and discuss a variety of books and genres, including *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *Number the Stars*, and *Bound for Oregon*. Using Reader's Response Journals, literature circles, and novel packets, students are asked to analyze literature through the process of generating, articulating, negotiating, and revising interpretations and understandings of texts. The four main

components of the reading program are 1) large amounts of time for actual reading of authentic texts, 2) explicit instruction in comprehension strategies, 3) opportunities for collaborative learning, and 4) time for students to talk with one another, and their teacher, about their responses to what they have read.

## **POETRY**

Poetry is one of the most beautiful expressions of language. We even find poetry in the Bible. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we learn to write various types of poetry. The students use similes, extended metaphors, onomatopoeia, alliteration, and poetic language to craft their own works of literature. Each poem is edited using the Writing Process (prewrite/plan, rough draft, edit, revise, publish) and then read out loud.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Students receive mini-mental exercises weekly where they need it the most: number sense, patterns, estimation, mental mathematics and geometry through the *Daily Mathematics* series. Critical thinking skills are incorporated into daily problem solving, helping students see the connections among a variety of math topics. Problems emphasize real-world situations, reinforcing the importance of mathematics in student's daily lives.

In addition, the A Beka math curriculum is used as the core textbook. Computation skills lay the foundation for the mathematics program. These skills are taught and practiced, not as an end in themselves, but as a means to helping students solve problems. Games are utilized as well to reinforce math skills learned in class. The study of math encourages students to believe in the absolutes of the universe, to work diligently to get right answers and to see the facts of mathematics as part of the truth and order that God has built into the universe. Listed below are many of the skills the fourth grade student will learn:

- \* Place value of whole numbers and decimals
- \* Mastery of fundamental operation
- \* Addition/Subtraction/Multiplication of fractions
- \* Converting measures within the same system and solving measurement equations
- \* Reading a thermometer
- \* Solving equations using addition and subtraction axioms
- \* Estimating answers
- \* English/metric measures
- \* English/metric ruler
- \* Factoring
- \* Divisibility Rules
- \* Making change
- \* Introduction to decimals
- \* Graphs and scale drawing
- \* Geometric shapes
- \* Perimeter/area
- \* Roman numerals
- \* Estimation
- \* Averaging

## **SCIENCE**

Science is the study of God's order, provision and general revelation as discovered in His physical creation. The science program at Crosshill Christian School offers a comprehensive basis which gives the students understanding of the content and processes of life, physical and earth sciences. The ACSI Purposeful Design text, *Systems*, is used as the core textbook for fourth grade. The goal for fourth grade science is to develop a scientific attitude in each child that will give him an interest in the world that God has created and to make him aware of the important role that science plays in human progress and development.

Listed below are the topics taught:

- \* Design and Order of Life (cells, habitats, living vs. nonliving features, animal classifications)
- \* Light and Sound
- \* Motion and Force
- \* Earth (soil, layers, water cycle, atmosphere)

## **HISTORY**

Students will develop a sense of geography and terms that apply to the land of Oregon through hands-on, creative lessons. We conduct an in-depth study of the regions and history of Oregon, beginning with the early Native Americans tribes. This is followed by studies of the early trappers, explorers, and settlers to the Oregon country. The focus of the year is on westward expansion and the factors that contributed to the pioneers settling in Oregon Country. Students will travel along the trails that led Oregon to becoming the 33<sup>rd</sup> member of the United States of America through the creation of lapbooks, Oregon Trail journals, projects, and field trips. Wagons, ho!

## **MUSIC**

God created music as a gift for us. In turn, we must use it for Him. Music is a skill that must be trained and developed, and in doing so, students will learn music as an avenue to praise and worship God. Fourth and fifth grade students will participate in a music elective block selecting one of the following areas of study:

- \*Vocal Music

- \*Instrumental Band

## **COMPUTERS**

Chromebook labs are utilized throughout the Elementary department for a variety of educational enhancements. Chromebook usage and navigation are introduced, as well as the beginning word processing skills needed for a variety of school projects. A typing program may be utilized, teaching students the correct finger placement and usage for the keyboard. A computer lab may also be accessed throughout the year.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Fitness and skill development are the primary goals of the PE program. Students participate in exercises to promote cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength and flexibility. Basic motor and manipulative skills are sequenced or combined for greater movement challenges. Games, relays and drills are designed to enhance skill related fitness or specific sport skills. Partner and group activities are used to meet growing social needs while emphasizing individual development.

## **SPANISH**

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the United States, and the fourth most important international business language. Research has shown that exposing students to language at an early age has many benefits including; reaching high levels of language acquisition, test performance, cognitive skills, and cultural sensitivity. At Crosshill, students have weekly exposure to the language and culture through listening, reading, playing games, writing, speaking, and singing. Students gain confidence in their comprehension and gain momentum as the year progresses.

## **ACSI**

Throughout the year there are opportunities for students to participate in various ACSI sponsored academic competitions with students from other Christian schools. Competitions at the classroom level select fourth grade representatives from CCS for the ACSI Spelling Bee, Speech Meet and Math Olympics.