

St. Isidore Catholic School's curriculum is fully aligned to the Diocesan Learning Standards and the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools. Furthermore, our curriculum is vertically aligned from grades preK through 8. Our curricula is strengthened even more by using a continuous improvement framework based on Response to Intervention / Multiple Tiered System of Supports, scientifically based instructional strategies, formative and summative assessment, and positive behavior management.

## *The Whole Child*

A complete **Grade Four** experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Isidore Catholic School, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically as well. We will instruct the children in Christian values, social skills and manners, independence, and the structure and routine of school. It is our quest to build a foundation for the children to become not only life-long learners, but loving and caring individuals. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these high goals.

## *Religion*

Jesus is at the center of everything we do at St. Isidore Catholic School. **Fourth graders** will learn through stories, prayer, Scripture, activities, discussion, reflection, and weekly Mass about their Catholic faith. Catholic values are discussed and integrated in all subject areas throughout the day. The focus is on the Holy Trinity, planning and assisting in liturgy and other forms of worship, liturgical seasons, morality, church structure, the Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Saints, and service. The students will also learn and recite the Nicene Creed.

## *English Language Arts*

The English Language Arts program is all encompassing and includes reading, phonics, writing, speaking, listening, and the study of literature. The components of the program emphasize the development of those skills that allow students to read with fluency, comprehend and interpret written materials, communicate well, and listen and speak effectively.

### **READING**

Students experience different genres such as poetry, folktales, literary and informational, fantasies, and plays. Reading fluency will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills throughout the year:

- Understanding cause and effect
- Examining and describing elements of literature (plot, characters, setting, theme) within a story
- Identifying figurative language
- Analyzing details
- Developing vocabulary
- Practicing and gaining skills in reading different genres
- Summarizing
- Comparing and contrasting

### **WRITING AND LANGUAGE**

**Fourth grade** students use writing to convey meaning. Our students will write legibly, write multiple sequential paragraphs on a given topic, and apply grammar and mechanics, including parts of speech, simple tenses, and punctuation. Fourth grade students also use the 6+1 Traits of Writing Program. Furthermore, the students write in a variety of forms including guided writing, friendly letters, descriptive paragraphs, expository non-fiction, opinion paragraphs, narrative stories, book reviews, and journal entries.

### **SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

**Fourth grade** students will listen for understanding, follow directions, and respond appropriately to the speaker. Students will use acquired language and vocabulary to express opinions. Students will participate in class discussions, present material orally and make presentations to individuals and small groups.

## *Mathematics*

**Fourth grade** students acquire a knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills to solve math problems. In all areas, students will use appropriate tools strategically and will attend to precision.

**Fourth grade** students will:

- Use the four operations with whole number to solve problems
- Become familiar with factors and multiples
- Generate and analyze patterns
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations of whole numbers
- Understand decimal notations for fractions and compare decimal fractions
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion from larger units to smaller units
- Represent and interpret data
- Understand concepts of angles and measure angles
- Draw and identify lines and angles and classify shapes of properties of their lines and angles

## Science

**Fourth grade** students will use concrete, hands-on experiences to understand science in the physical and natural world around them. They learn through observing, predicting, questioning, and explaining. Our students will study:

- Energy and Motion
- Transfer of Energy
- Structures and functions of Living Things
- Wave Patterns and Information Transfer
- Patterns of Earth's Changing Features
- Natural Hazards
- Energy from Natural Resources

## Social Studies

**Fourth grade** students will acquire a social and cultural understanding of the world around them. The focus will be: Immigration

- Regions of the United States
- U.S. Geography
- U.S. Government
- U.S. Economy

## Physical Education

In **Fourth grade**, our students learn and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will maintain personal fitness, acquire and awareness of personal health needs, follow more complex sequences and movement in games and dance, and participate in cooperative group games.

## The Arts

**Fourth grade** students continue learning about the principles and elements of art. They have the opportunity to express themselves through various art forms. Students are introduced to artists and how their work influenced society. **Fourth graders** participate in the Diocesan assessment of Optical art.

## Technology

As part of our STEM focus, **Fourth grade** students will begin to develop digital skills enabling cross curricular activities that integrate technology in the classroom.

**Fourth grade** students will:

- Transition to a fully digital working environment
- Continue to use various online collaboration tools
- Produce digital content including text and images using word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software
- Develop problem solving skills using digital tools
- Continue to expand and develop computer programming skills
- Responsibly use the internet for research purposes
- Continue to develop keyboarding skills
- Continue to understand what it means to be a good digital citizen

## Library

**Fourth grade** students will use the school library and locate books of interest to be checked out each week. They will also recognize different sections of the library and know how to use a library.

## Music

The **Fourth grade** curriculum continues to expand on all concepts taught in the earlier grades with a deeper understanding and appreciation for music. Students continue to use rhythm instruments, their voices and bodies to respond to, connect with, and perform music. For music appreciation, a continuation of music history, composers, listening skills, and genres of music is taught. Traditionally, fourth graders are part of the student choir. Classroom instruction is given on how to play the recorder during the second semester of the school year. Music instruction includes both sacred and secular music.

