

4 Fourth Grade

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Language Arts

Reading

We use the Houghton-Mifflin Reading series, *A Legacy of Literacy*. This series focuses the teaching of reading on mastering reading skills and reading proficiency through quality award-winning literature. Students experience traditional and contemporary literature, as they focus on the following reading strategies: summarize, predict/infer, monitor/clarify, question and phonics/decoding. Vocabulary is taught through reading, writing and challenging vocabulary exercises. Students also participate in literature circles using quality children novels.

English

We use the McGraw Hill Language Arts Series. Fourth graders apply writing and grammar skills: composition, story mapping, listening and speaking, language and usage, capitalization and punctuation, parts of speech and proofreading.

Word Study/Vocabulary

Students will build spelling skills through word study and edit for spelling activities. GoCabalulary Software and workbook is used to enhance student's vocabulary, reading and reasoning skills.

Writing

Fourth graders are encouraged to write regularly and creatively using skills and strategies of the writing process. Prewriting, writing, editing and publishing are emphasized. Students write stories, poetry and tales/myths, news articles, journal entries and informational essays.

Study Skills/Organizational Skills

Students develop many study skill strategies during the year. They learn how to manage their time wisely, how to stay organized, how to be a good listener, how to take tests, how to read textbooks, and how to use resources for research.

Math

We use the Wright Group/McGraw Hill Series *Everyday Math*. Lessons and activities focus on active learning, computational proficiency, problem solving and cooperative learning. Students learn to think, question and make decisions with confidence. Students focus on whole numbers up to ten thousands, fractions, place value, number patterns, time graphing, geometry, data, measurement, multiplying and dividing by single digit

numbers, probability, estimation, mental math, and calculator proficiency.

Science

The McGraw Hill series is used to develop the scientific method of discovery through units separated into areas of scientific study.

- Life Science: Ecology, Food Chains, Food Webs, Classification of Organisms
- Physical Science: Energy and Its Transformation: Sound, Light, Color, Magnetism, Electricity, Chemistry
- Earth Science: Weather, Climate, Water
- Astronomy, Earth's Surface and History

Social Studies

Students use the Silver Burdett Ginn Social Studies series, *Regions & Resources*, which combines history, geography and economics in an interactive format. This series studies the geographic regions of the United States from early times to present. Students identify geographic patterns, classify regions, and demonstrate an understanding of economics and civics. The text is supplemented with other materials to enrich the curriculum. Time Magazine for Kids is used for current events.

Art

Kindergarten through fifth grade students have Art class each week with the Art Education Specialist. The curriculum is based on the SRA series, *Art Connections*. The program integrates the four dimensions of Art into every age-appropriate lesson: art history and culture, aesthetic perception, art production and art criticism. Students encounter a broad range of art media for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional self-expression.

Christian Education

Students have Christian Education with the Christian Education Specialist each week. Fourth graders study four Bible characters who are spiritual heroes. They are: Elijah, champion of obedience; Esther, champion of faith; Nehemiah, champion of action; and Peter, champion of strength. They learn how God worked in Bible times through problem-filled periods that parallel ours today and what He has promised to do for all who trust His word and obey His will. A daily devotion and prayer is shared at the beginning of each school day. Blessings are shared at meal time. Also importantly, Christianity is incorporated into the school day. Teachers intertwine moral values and Christian significance in their everyday teaching.

Fourth grade students attend chapel every Monday afternoon with the

Lower School. This service is conducted by the Christian Education Specialist and members of the Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ministerial staff. Songs, prayers and a children's sermon make this an important start to our spiritual as well as our academic week at Mount Pisgah Christian School. All Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Computer Science

Students go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for their use during learning center activities. Students continue to use word processing, desktop publishing, and presentation software to create, edit, and save documents and presentations. Keyboarding skills continue to develop, while sending and receiving electronic mail is introduced. Information management skills are expanded to include the use of a commercial database. Organization of information results from searches introduced.

Foreign Language

Spanish is taught each week by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings and farewells, colors, numbers, weather, days of the week, and months of the year are reviewed and applied by students through written and oral activities, with a special emphasis on grammatical concepts. Spanish culture and customs are discussed and learned. Students review counting by 5's and 10's up to 100, and by 100's to 1000. They learn the concept of time. Students review basic knowledge of customs and culture of Latin America, and review knowledge of basic geography of North, Central, and South America. They review the Spanish alphabet and spell simple words in Spanish. Students begin to read and write phonetically in Spanish.

Library Science

Students visit the Media Center each week for book check out and formal library science instruction. The Media Specialist teaches students to use the Media Center as a source of information and pleasure. Information management skills such as accessing and retrieving information are reinforced.

Music

Fourth graders have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Macmillan series, *Music and You*, is used to help students understand the relationship between music history and culture. Students study a

variety of melodic patterns, listen to musical form and style and recognize rhythmic notation. Students sing songs from other countries and sing songs in round. They identify contemporary music, composers and instruments of the orchestra by sight and sound. They participate in several performances during the year. Students may participate in handbell choir and band.

Physical Education

Fourth graders have Health/Physical Education five times a week. Students participate in developmental activities for strength, endurance, flexibility, speed, balance, power and agility. They refine skill patterns and perform skills of endurance and coordination. We introduce aspects of health such as nutrition, personal health, and alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. Fitness begins to play a larger part of the curriculum as the fourth graders become aware of their Presidential Fitness scores and how to interpret them. Students participate in individual, partner and group games.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce the Six pillars of character: respect, responsibility, citizenship, caring, trustworthiness and fairness with scripture and skit each month during our chapel/rally. Classroom teachers follow through with activities, discussions and devotions relating to these traits.

We encourage an incentive program with our Specials teachers to reinforce good behavior. Tickets are awarded to students and placed in a bucket for a weekly drawing at rally. If their ticket is picked, they have their picture put on our Character board and they are eligible for the bi-monthly drawing for a lunch and a trip to the game room with the Principal and other special guests. If children are observed exemplifying outstanding character by any of the Mount Pisgah staff, they are given a "character rock." Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take our Pillar of Character to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

Enrichment Activities

After School Enrichment Classes

After School enrichment activities, such as additional art, science and computer classes are designed for both learning and fun. Classes begin immediately after school is dismissed.

Cultural Arts Experiences

Field trips and special performances serve as an important extension of the Cultural Arts Program. Each year students enjoy live performances by various professional groups.

Service Projects

Each year we provide opportunities for students to experience the joy of Christian service. Each class chooses a service project as their focus for the year. Students also participate in school -wide service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the North Fulton Charities food drive, and Operation Christmas Child. At Mount Pisgah Christian School, our students realize that they are important members of the body of Christ.

*Mount Pisgah Christian School incorporates differentiated instructional practices to meet the needs of individual learners.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an outstanding college-preparatory education
grounded in Christian faith and values



mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

9820 Nesbit Ferry Road Alpharetta GA 30022
678 336 3300