

Bethlehem Christian Academy

Fourth Grade Conspectus

Bethlehem Christian Academy is committed to providing a quality education that is thoroughly Christian. All subjects are taught from a Christian perspective, and Biblical truth is integrated throughout by teachers who are committed to Jesus Christ and dedicated to preparing young people to serve our Savior (Luke 6:40).

During **Bible** class we use the Word of God as the foundation of our study of God's truth as revealed in His Word. Students are introduced to the study helps (maps, time lines, concordance, and Bible dictionary), which can be of great value in their personal study of God's Word. The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) Elementary Bible Series workbook, *Christ and His Word*, offers doctrinal lessons which explore such themes as God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and Salvation. Application of Biblical principles is made to our daily lives as, from a Christian perspective, we discuss such topics as honesty, getting along with others, making decisions, and caring for others. Because hiding God's Word in our hearts is a key component leading to growth in our Christian lives, memory verses which relate to our lessons are assigned on a weekly basis. We participate in chapel each week and are in charge of presenting four chapel services during the year. Preparation for these chapels helps students to relate what we are studying in class to the importance of sharing God's truth with others.

The major emphasis of the **Reading** program at the fourth grade level is on comprehension skills. Following oral or silent reading, the class discussions or written assignments focus on literal, interpretive, and critical comprehension. Phonics skills taught in previous years are reviewed, and many structural, literary, and study skills are presented. Students enjoy a wide variety of reading material in the Bob Jones text, *Reading for Christian Schools*. Christian fiction and biographies, historical fiction and non-fiction, adventure stories, informational articles, traditional tales, drama, poetry, and excerpts from the Bible and from notable children's literature provide a stimulating combination of materials. Effective oral reading is encouraged as students learn to read more fluently. Practice in correct pronunciation, expression, and attention to punctuation clues is stressed so that oral reading will be more successful.

The Bob Jones **Language** text integrates language skills with a focus on written communication strategies. Grammar, usage, and language mechanics are covered, as well as study skills such as using the dictionary and the encyclopedia effectively. Writing chapters focus on different types of writing skills such as letters, narratives, essays, and poetry.

Weekly **Spelling** lists come from the ACSI *Spelling Workbook*. Phonics rules are reviewed and spelling patterns are reinforced as each unit emphasizes words with specific spelling patterns or letter sounds. Workbook assignments include a variety of activities to encourage good spelling. Students learn to classify words by their spelling patterns, analyze words according to letter sounds, and proofread for spelling errors. Students also learn weekly vocabulary words and strategies for decoding unfamiliar words.

Fourth grade **Math** builds on skills learned in earlier grades. We review and go into greater depth in the basic operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and divisions. Problem-solving strategies are emphasized in each unit. Fractions, decimals, graphs, measurement, and basic geometry are also presented. Manipulatives such as tangrams, Wrap-ups, and pattern blocks are readily available to enhance our program.

Our **Social Studies** curriculum covers American history through the American Revolution as we learn about how we became the United States as a country. Students also work on map and

geography skills which includes learning the states and capitals. Fourth graders also learn about Ohio history and activities and field trips reinforce what is learned. The Bob Jones text, *Heritage Studies 4*, also introduces students to basic economic concepts and the workings of the American democracy.

In **Science**, fourth graders learn to appreciate God's creation as we study units presented in the ABeka text, Understanding God's World. Our first units cover insects, plants, and birds and give students the opportunity to create an insect zoo, complete a tree identification project, and put together a bird book. Other exciting studies which help students understand basic principles of science include units on matter, sound, the earth, the ocean, and astronomy. Demonstrations, experiments, projects, and reports all help to extend the basic lessons and give students a better understanding of God's awesome creative power.

Art, health, physical education, music, library, and computer classes are offered on a weekly basis. Fourth graders with a special interest in music may also try out for band and *Sounds of Honor* (our vocal ensemble). In addition, our students participate in the following ACSI events: Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, Math Olympics, Science Fair, and Music, Art, and Creative Writing Festivals. Through these activities, students are encouraged to use their special gifts and talents for the Lord.

Our fourth grade program is a stimulating one which challenges students to develop independent work skills and take greater responsibility for their own learning. We trust this will be a year of intellectual and spiritual growth as students seek to do their work "heartily as unto the Lord". (Colossians 3:23)