

# Sylvan Way Christian Schools



Curriculum Guide  
Fourth and Fifth Grades

## Sylvan Way Christian School Fourth Grade

### Bible

*Building Life Castles* by Positive Action for Christ is a survey of the New Testament. Students will study the New Testament, focusing on the life of Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the life and writings of Paul. Bible verses are learned and memorized during the school year. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are integrated throughout the day.

### Reading

We use a literature-based approach to reading instruction, studying the basic elements of literature, comprehension strategies, and vocabulary studies. In fourth grade we read different genres and learn about the elements of them: historical, biographical, and humorous fiction; mysteries; poetry, adventure stories, and non-fiction. Students also are required to read independently, keep reading logs, and do book reports and projects.

### Language Arts

**Writing** is integrated into all subjects, and studied independently. Students write descriptive and narrative paragraphs, essays, letters, poetry, research reports, and stories. Students learn the writing process in detail so that they become better writers and communicators. We use the *Write Source Handbook* by Houghton Mifflin.

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

### Mathematics

We follow the Harcourt Brace *Math Advantage* curriculum for fourth grade. Students learn four-digit equations in addition and subtraction, multiplication up to three digits, division with up to three-digit divisors, fractions, and geometry. Math manipulatives are used when appropriate and homework is given to reinforce concepts taught in class with additional practice.

## **Science**

Science is a unit-based curriculum, based upon the Concordia Edition of *Discovery Works* by Silver Burdett. This gives a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonder of the world God has given us. Students are challenged to make predictions, estimations and discoveries about the topics covered. They do this by working in small groups to complete labs and by working independently at a science center. Units covered in fourth grade are Magnetism and Electricity, Earth's Land and Resources, and Weather and Climate. We have an incredible Science Fair in May.

## **Social Studies**

In *Social Studies Alive! Regions of Our Country* by TCi, fourth grade students actively develop key mapping skills and take simulated tours of key sites in the difference regions of our country. They study geography on topics such as climate, natural resources, and bodies of water and learn about the importance of these key geographical influences. They approach the study of people and our country from the perspective of an economist, an historian, a geographer, and a political scientist. They also study Washington State history, utilizing many resources including *Discovering Washington* by Ruth Pelz. Students take field trips, view videos, participate in hands-on learning of all kinds, and do lots of research.

## **Technology**

Students study keyboarding using the *Type to Learn* program. They also experience Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. They use the computers to type documents and prepare presentations.

## **Art**

Artists studied in fourth grade are Vincent Van Gogh and Thomas Kincaid. Students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to be creative in their weekly projects.

## **Physical Education**

Fourth graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.

## Sylvan Way Christian School Fifth Grade

### Bible

*Possessing the Land* by Positive Action for Christ is a survey of every section of the Old Testament. Through this study students will gain a clearer perspective of how the stories of the Old Testament fit together into one pattern, and how these stories apply to their own lives. Bible verses are learned and memorized during the school year. Prayer and sharing from God's Word are integrated throughout each day.

### Reading

We use a literature-based approach to reading instruction, studying the basic elements of literature, comprehension strategies, vocabulary studies, and utilizing journaling. The books we study in fifth grade are *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*; *The Sign of the Beaver*; and *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Students also are required to read independently, keep reading logs, and do book reports.

### Language Arts

**Writing** is integrated into all subjects and studied independently. Students learn to use literary devices and forms, how to do research, and write coherently and effectively. We use the *Write Source Handbook* by Houghton Mifflin.

We use Rebecca Sitton's **Spelling** program which places an emphasis on retention of commonly used words, spelling correctly in context in all subjects, and understanding spelling conventions.

### Mathematics

Fifth graders learn addition and subtraction of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; multiplication of whole numbers up to three digits and with decimals; multiplication of fractions; division of whole numbers to three digits; the metric system; geometry; and probability. We use Harcourt *Math Advantage* curriculum. Math manipulatives are used when appropriate and homework is given to reinforce concepts taught in class with additional practice.

## **Science**

Science is a unit-based curriculum, based upon the Concordia Edition of *Discovery Works* by Silver Burdett. This gives a Christian perspective emphasizing the wonder of the world God has given us. Students are challenged to make predictions, estimations and discoveries about the topics covered.

Units covered in fifth grade include Ecosystems, Energy and Simple Machines, Solid Earth (Rocks and Minerals), Solar System, and Plants. Students experience lab work, hands-on activities, and field trips. We have an incredible Science Fair in early May each year.

## **Social Studies**

In *History Alive! America's Past* by TCi, students learn United States history and geography from the Native Americans and Early Explorers through to the Civil War. They take field trips, view videos, participate in hands-on learning of all kinds, and do lots of research.

## **Art**

Artists studied in fifth grade are Mary Cassat and Dale Chihuly. Students learn the basic elements of art including line, shape, form, color and texture. They learn to be creative in their weekly projects.

## **Physical Education**

Fifth graders have Physical Education twice a week. Students participate in activities to develop strength, endurance and flexibility. They develop basic skills in individual and team sports. Emphasis is placed on cooperation as a team and showing good sportsmanship.