

# Immanuel Lutheran School

“Excelling in Christian Education”



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## Fourth Grade

*Immanuel Lutheran School, empowered by the Holy Spirit, leads children to know God as their Heavenly Father through the redeeming love of Jesus Christ, provides them with a quality education, and prepares and nurtures them to serve the church and community in Christian love.*

### **Fourth Grade Curriculum**

The curriculum of Immanuel Lutheran School, at all grade levels, meets or exceeds Missouri State Standards in all areas. Maximum class size is 23 students per classroom.

In the Fourth Grade, daily challenges and expectations are provided in areas of communication, problem solving and application to help cultivate exceptional learners. Students are involved in independent and group activities which provide opportunities for individual growth and team building. Reading and discussing God’s Word helps students understand His plan for their lives.

Families are welcome to visit classrooms at any time and there are special opportunities to visit before the school year starts to help children become familiar with their teachers and their learning environment. This is a wonderful opportunity to foster better communication and build caring relationships to begin the school year on a positive note.

### **Religion**

The fourth grade uses the *One In Christ* series from *Concordia Publishing House*. This curriculum is designed to help students with key concepts of faith such as Law, Gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness, and grace while focusing specifically on the actions of our God on behalf of His people. The lessons center on the cross of Christ and are grounded in the Word of God, through which the Holy Spirit works to create, strengthen, and sustain saving faith. The series is designed to encourage students in the growth of their day-to-day relationship with Jesus.

Memory work includes Bible verses which correlate with the religion curriculum. Hymns and parts of Luther’s Small Catechism are also included.

Chapel is held weekly. Fourth Grade students lead a chapel service once a year.

Additionally, each student is a member of a “Faith Family.” These are multi-age, student-led groups that meet every other month for devotional activities. On alternating months, Faith Families sit together for chapel.

### **Technology**

PCs and SMARTboards are used in the classroom on a regular basis. Fourth graders use the school computer lab on a weekly basis where they are instructed on the uses of *Microsoft Office* applications, use the *Mavis Beacon* Keyboarding Program, and Internet activities are integrated with core subjects.

### **Language Arts**

#### *Reading*

The students use the *Wonders Reading curriculum*. Students are provided activities and strategies that regularly reinforce essential components such as: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. *Wonders* prioritizes skill instructions at each grade level such as: critical thinking skills through pre-reading, reading comprehension, making inferences, asking questions, summarizing, comparing and contrasting, analyzing characters, and identifying cause and effect. These are just a few of the many components learned to create an understanding of literature. Novels are incorporated at various times of the year to enrich and enhance the students literary background.

#### *English*

The *Houghton Mifflin English* program teaches students the processes, strategies, and skills they need to listen, speak, and write for clear and effective communication. Grammar, usage, and mechanics units include all parts of speech appropriate for the fourth grade. Student independent practice contains traditional numbered exercises and, more importantly, provides proofreading practice in the paragraph format frequently found on standardized tests.

#### *Writing*

Students incorporate writing which works together with the reading program. Each writing unit introduces published and student models for students to read and respond to as writers. Student rubrics and graphic organizers are essential to the five-step writing process. Students work on their effective writing by including writing traits such as: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. Students revise and proof-read their writings which expands their learning with language arts.

#### *Spelling*

Fourth grade students use *Spelling City*. Spelling proficiency is encouraged through the sentence dictation and words included in the weekly lessons. Each lesson focuses on a spelling strategy that describes a common spelling rule or principle. The spelling words on the list for that week will illustrate the spelling strategy. Students develop vocabulary for reading and writing through words and lessons used throughout the year.

## Mathematics

Lessons and activities promote mathematical proficiency by focusing on the development of both mathematics skills and essential understandings. Students learn questioning strategies, decision making, higher order-thinking skills, and the development of mathematical communication as a means of building a deeper understanding of mathematics. Students focus on place value, number patterns, time graphing, geometry, dates, measurement, multiplying and dividing by two-digit numbers, probability, decimals, estimation, and mental math.

## Science

The science curriculum is inquiry-centered, which allows students to conceptualize a question and then seek a possible explanation that responds to that question. Students will make observations and conduct investigations to build an understanding of the concepts being taught. Units include:

### *Electric Circuits*

In *Electric Circuits* students are introduced to the basic properties of electricity as they learn about electric circuits and the parts of a light bulb. They learn about conductors and insulators, and the symbols used to represent the parts of a circuit in circuit diagrams. They explore different kinds of circuits, learn about switches, construct a flashlight, and investigate the properties of diodes. Finally, students apply their knowledge and skills to wire a cardboard house.

### *Land and Water*

In *Land and Water*, students investigate the interactions between land and water. Using a stream table as their model, students observe how run-off causes stream formation; how ground water forms; how soil is eroded, transported, and deposited; how water shapes land, and in turn, affect the flow of water. The stream table also serves as a basis for investigations of the water cycle.

### *Motion and Design*

Here, students explore the physics of motion and apply these concepts to technological design. As students design vehicles, they apply concepts such as friction and kinetic/potential energy; the effect of gravity on motion; and finally solve a design challenge and present their findings to the class.

### *Solar System*

Students explore the *Solar System* through hands-on activities. Students gain perspective on the physical relationships between objects in our Solar System. Model planets and a classroom-size model solar system built to scale dramatize the relative sizes and distances of our satellites in our solar system, such as asteroids, meteoroids, and comets. This unit also extends to stars and the constellations.

## Social Studies

Students learn about the five regions of the United States through the lens of four social sciences—economics, geography, political science, and history. Students learn to think like social scientists as they tour the regions, investigating the features that make the regions distinct, and the characteristics that unite them. Students also apply what they have learned about our nation as they research their own state of Missouri.

### *Cultural Experiences*

Fourth grade goes on several field trips throughout the year to enhance their cultural and historical background of the region. There are also several school assemblies during the year that the students participate in.

## Foreign Language

Each week the children participate in Spanish class. Our Spanish teacher visits each classroom weekly. Although the Spanish classes are mostly for enrichment purposes only, these lessons also have a cross-curricular purpose that both provide a foundation as well as build on knowledge in a variety of subject areas.

## Music & Chorus

Fourth Grade has Music class twice a week, once for Music Education and once for Chorus. Music Education includes music theory, music appreciation, and learning to play the recorder. Chorus includes vocal technique and performance. The study of these areas is cumulative and sequential from earlier grades. The Fourth Grade Choir sings for worship services approximately four times a year, in Immanuel's Boar's Head Festival, and also in the biennial spring musical production.

Fourth Grade students may also: play in a handbell choir; have an acting role in Immanuel's Boar's Head Festival, and/or the biennial spring musical production; and participate in the Strings Program, taking weekly private or semi-private lessons and playing with the Level II group or the Training Orchestra.

## Art

Students focus on the elements and principles of design, while observing various works from the masters. Students apply the art techniques learned using many forms of media in their own creative works. Though a specific time is set aside once a week for 50 minutes, students carry over their skills and creativity, to many other subjects and activities.

## Physical Education & Recesses

Exercising routines become a major focal point as fourth grade students begin taking the national standard fitness test developed by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance. More specialized skills are taught in all areas, particularly the traditional sports of soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, softball, and track. Lead-up games are played to emphasize the various skills of each sport. Even more teamwork and cooperation is required. The course is broken into units that cover each sport, but also, units that deal with rhythm and dance, tumbling, and combative activities.

## Service Projects

Students participate in school-wide service projects such as food bank in-gatherings, supporting Immanuel's social ministry, and supporting other district and synodical mission projects.

## Wellness Program

Immanuel Lutheran School nurtures a student's social and emotional development through the counseling program. The counselor visits with students in the classroom for guidance lessons twice a month, conducts small group sessions, and works with individual students by referral.

Fourth graders work on developing good boundaries with classmates by having honest discussions about feelings and the impact words have on others. Students are also encouraged to value their unique God-given qualities and share them with others. They make "Gladvertisements" where they can advertise their hobbies, personality traits, and their best attributes to the rest of the class.

## Fourth Grade Students may also participate in the following:

- Immanuel's Before- and After-care programs
- Geography Bee
- Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts
- Occasional sporting events