

Fourth Grade

2nd quarter

The fourth grade students have been learning many new skills during this first quarter of school. We are looking forward to more challenging learning activities during the second quarter. Listed below you will find a summary of each curriculum subject area to inform you of the skills the students will be learning.

Religion

- Continue learning about the Ten Commandments
- Start unit 2 where students will learn about the Beatitudes, baptism, and the kingdom of God.
- Learn about St. Teresa of Avila and other saints
- Advent
- Continue to encourage mass participation
- Bible Verse memorization

Reading

- Continue reading selected stories from Reading textbook
- Start the novel Family Under the Bridge. This novel is about a family that is homeless, and it really makes the children realize how blessed they are. We will reinforce this concept by conducting a collection of gently-used tennis shoes between Thanksgiving and Christmas, which will be donated to those in need.

Reading- skills we will be working on include:

Comprehension

- Make predictions
- Sequence of events
- Cause and effect
- Form generalizations

Vocabulary Strategies

- Context clues
- Compound words

Study Skills

- Reference sources
 - Atlas
 - Dictionary skills
 - Thesaurus

Writing

- 6 Traits of Writing
 - Ideas
 - Organization
 - Personal Narratives

*** Reading is the best way a child can become a better reader. Any sustained silent or oral reading will greatly benefit your child. Rereading of novels being read in class is a wonderful way to develop skills. Please continue to read aloud with your children.

Spelling – We continue to meet the needs of each child through differentiated spelling lists, with a focus this quarter on root words, plurals, and alphabetizing.

Grammar- skills we will be working on include:

- Common and Proper Nouns
- Singular and Plural Nouns
- Irregular Plural Nouns
- Possessive Nouns
- Plurals vs. Possessive

Social Studies

The 4th grade students have been learning about different resources throughout our nation, and how this relates to the economy. Currently we are discovering the wonderful resources in Nebraska. When this is concluded the students will study about the settling of America, with emphasis on European immigrants. Our next region for the states and capitals is the Midwest, with the test in January.

Math

We will continue to do Rocket Math to help students memorize their multiplication facts. Please continue to practice them at home as well. We will be reviewing addition and subtraction skills and then moving on to multiplication. In the later part of the quarter students will learn estimating, mental math, 3 factor multiplication, and problem solving.

Science

We are still learning about weather and continue with “Wacky Weather.” Next we will begin our unit on the Solar System. We will be stressing vocabulary and the many different types of note taking skills and study habits. We will be picking out the important facts from a variety of sources. Throughout this unit and others, we will be using the Scientific Method for exciting experiments.

Music

Take a look at our original Halloween parody songbooks displayed in homerooms during conferences! Do you know what level of recorder karate your student has attained?

During second quarter students will be able to:

- Sing alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music including traditional holiday songs
- Experience part-singing with rounds and partner songs
- Read, write and perform rhythm patterns using basic notes and rests (quarter, half, whole, eighth, dotted half)
- Use the treble clef staff in vocal and instrumental music

- Sightsing using major sol-fege syllables (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do)
- Develop increased playing ability on recorder and classroom instruments
- Attend a student performance of the Omaha Ballet “Nutcracker” at the Orpheum Theater as a culmination of a unit on music and the ballet

Art

The St. Wenceslaus art program is designed around the four component of discipline-based art education (DBAE). Along with art production, students will study art history, learn art criticism, and explore aesthetics. Art class will also explore personal, cultural, and social interactions. At the elementary level, students will learn basic self-criticism of artwork. As the students attend art once a week, it is a requirement that work not completed during class time must be taken home and completed outside of class.

Fourth art students will continue to discover how shape, line, and color can be used to express different ideas, feeling, and experiences. During the second quarter, students will complete a calligraphy project, using their own initials as the main feature of the design. Fourth graders are expected to carry out the class rules of respect, participation, cleaning up their own mess, using supplies correctly, and listening for special instructions.

Spanish

We will continue working on the use of me gusta and no me gusta

- Introduce “pero” (but) to connect a me gusta sentence with a no me gusto sentence
- Work on a me gusta rap project
- Prepare a special Mexican bread dough project for Christmas
- Talk about Our Lady of Guadeloupe around the feast day (Dec 12)
- Watch a video about the story of the celebration of the feast day of Mexico

Computer Students meet in the Big Computer Lab for thirty minutes once a week.

Focus for 2nd quarter: Word processing & Internet Usage

Software: Lotus Wordpro

Students type page heading, sentences, and paragraphs then edit their own work and use a spell check.

Keyboarding: Software: Sunburst’s Type to Learn. Students will continue with their self-paced lessons 1012 to practice and reinforce the following concepts: proper posture, home row placement of fingers, skill & technique, and timed writings for accuracy.

Technical Tips: Use of the Escape Key and the “Three Key Combo”

Ctrl + Alt + Delete

Physical Education

We will continue to work on our fitness throughout the year doing various fitness activities/games that are associated with the current unit. Students will begin a Volleyball unit after conferences. WE will start with associated Volleyball skills and play lead-up games. At the end of the unit students will play a regulation game and will be quizzed on their knowledge of the game. Upon returning from break, fourth grade students will begin a low organizational game unit. This unit will carry us through until after Christmas break. Starting in January students will be working on their 4th grade program. It will include dances, games and songs that have been learned in Music and P.E. class.