



CURRICULUM

ART

Ms. Phyllis Ciment is the Art teacher for the students. They will have Art every other Friday from 11:20am-12:05 pm.

DANCING

We are lucky to have Miss Washburn to teach the students Folk Dancing every Wednesday for one half hour. Toward the close of the school year, in May, Miss Washburn has the students perform what they have learned in the Folk Dance Open House. If your child is unable to participate for any reason in one of the dance classes, please send a note so that we may accommodate your child. The note is only good for a week at a time.

JOURNALS

Your child has a journal that they began writing in the second day of school. The students are given a topic at the start of the day to write about. The topics encompass their daily life, imaginary story writing, even the thought of dealing with emotions and obstacles that they face daily. If a child does not want to share a particular journal with the class, I do not force them; I just ask to see that they have responded. However, if a child passes every time they are called upon then I will ask that they share at some point. I do not grade them on the content, spelling, or grammar, but instead give them credit if the journal entry was completed or not. This is an activity I use to assist your child with their writing technique and writing enjoyment. The students then get the opportunity to share their journals and answer their classmate's questions. This is to help your child become more comfortable with public speaking.

LIBRARY

We are fortunate to have Mrs. Nelson in the school library. The students are given the opportunity to check-out books from the library, but are expected to return them in the shape they were in when they checked the book out and on time. If a student does not return a book in on time they will affect their opportunity to earn the Good Citizenship Award.



MATH

The Math curriculum in the fourth grade is quite challenging for most students because of the introduction of fractions, decimals, and percents. The school uses the Houghton-Mifflin series. Working with your child at home to reinforce their basic math skills as well as those introduced to them throughout the fourth grade year will ensure your child's success. I would ask that you take the time each week to run flash cards with your child on basic multiplication and division, as well as working on enrichment exercises based on the concepts I will present in the class. There are so many wonderful math websites and enrichment books available at local book stores that will help your child. I will periodically review online websites that may work for your child to brush up on the California Content Standards for the Fourth Grade Math curriculum.

MUSIC

Mr. McQueen will teach the students music on Tuesdays for one half hour, 9:05-9:55 am. The students will have the opportunity to use recorders to play their own music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs. Delahunty will teach Physical Education to your child once a week on Wednesdays for one half hour. Please send a note if your child cannot participate in the Physical Education class that day, without a note your child will be required to participate. All students must have non-marking athletic shoes or they will be unable to participate in class.

READING

Saint Brendan has adopted the Houghton-Mifflin reading series. I will use this series to guide the majority of the reading instruction in the fourth grade, as well as incorporating outside material to show the connection of what the students read to their daily lives. We will have literature circles in the class, which will be discussed with the students. To help the students enjoy the reading curriculum and to comprehend the content we will have Readers Theater as well. One of the main focuses of the content standards for the fourth grade reading curriculum is fairy tales. We will work with variations of certain fairy tales that the students are already familiar with in the American culture, for example, *Cinderella*.



RELIGION

We use the Blest Are We religion series in the fourth grade. Lessons from the series are based on the life and teachings of Jesus. We study the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments. The students will also review the seven sacraments and reminisce about their experiences in their First Holy Communion, Reconciliation, and take a look at their Baptism. The religion series will touch upon what it means to be a good citizen as well as help the children to understand the importance of morals. The students will be encouraged to accept responsibility, respect everyone and everything around them, and have self control and discipline, as well as the importance of honesty and generosity.

SCIENCE

Mrs. Tenhoff will be teaching the students Science four times a week for about 45 minutes. The students will explore many facets of Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ms. Lacey will be teaching Social Studies to your child daily. The Social Studies curriculum at this grade level focuses on California History. The series is known as Reflections. The students will explore the different missions that are all over California, as well as "meet" some of the most famous explorers. Learning about California helps the students to relate the content to their own lives, especially when the unit on San Francisco is taught. The students love to hear how San Francisco was once known as Yerba Buena. The Gold Rush of 1849 captivates the students' attention since the content focuses on the lives of the miners.

SPANISH

The students will be taught Spanish once a week on Mondays for about 50 minutes by Senora Wang. Please refer to her syllabus that is attached.

SPELLING

The students will be taking a weekly Spelling test. Each week your child will complete a Spelling Unit out of the workbook. They will take a pretest on Monday, complete the assigned pages of the unit throughout the week, and take a Spelling test on Friday that counts as a letter grade. If your child earns 100% on the pretest, they are not required to take the Friday test, but may participate in the extra credit word test.



TECHNOLOGY

The students will have their computer class on Wednesdays for one half hour. Miss Proehl will be their teacher. I will work to incorporate technology in the classroom as well through the use of the student lap tops by having the students conduct research online for particular activities as well as exploring web quests.