

Fourth Grade Information Sheet

At Fortis Academy, students in grades K-5 are enrolled in the Grammar School. During these six years children have an incredible capacity to learn and store copious amounts of information. We, as educators, take advantage of this time by maintaining high expectations on material being learned. Our aim is to fill and form a child's mind, first with the truth and beauty of God's sovereignty, and second with the facts of each subject necessary to grow in understanding and wisdom.

In scripture we regularly see the words *knowledge*, *understanding*, and *wisdom* distinguished one from the other: "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding," Proverbs 2:6. The grammar stage corresponds to the scriptural term *knowledge*. "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge," Proverbs 19:27.

Morning Assembly

All students attending Fortis Academy gather each morning before school begins for a brief time of worship. This assembly takes place from 8:45-8:55 behind the school at the cross. Principals and upper school students lead traditional hymns, prayers, and read scripture. This is a peaceful time for students to come together and have the opportunity to reflect on how God has blessed our school and how they can contribute to a healthy school atmosphere that glorifies Him.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." I Peter 1:13-16

Parent Role: Co-Teacher/Coach – continue to encourage independent work in areas deemed appropriate

At Home Work Time: approximately 4-5 hours per home school day

FOURTH GRADE CORE:

Language Arts

Fourth grade language arts include spelling, grammar, writing, vocabulary and reading. In grammar, students advance to classification of pattern 3 sentences. They use their strong foundation of paragraph writing to begin 3 paragraph essays based on key word outlines. All formal work is to be written in cursive. Students are expected to read a minimum of 12 books during their fourth grade year. Six of these are to be read with the class in order for weekly discussions to take place. Six additional books may be chosen from the Fortis booklist to be read independently. Teachers organize structured and engaging activities as a response to literature for each required reading book. Students continue to develop their ability to complete written narrations to enhance reading comprehension.

History

Students explore and examine the culture and key events of a particular time period through our curriculum Mystery of History. With the assistance from teacher and co-teacher, students gain knowledge through quality literature, hands-on activities and time line figures. Students continue to practice their narration skills through written summaries.

Knowledge of key historical dates and other history-related memory work are regularly assessed.

Math

Saxon Math 5/4 helps transition students from manipulatives and worksheets to a textbook approach. Concepts are taught through incremental development of new material and continual review of the old, along with in-depth "investigations." Concepts such as number sense, numeration, numerical operations, measurement and geometry, patterns, relationships, math functions, and data manipulation are introduced. Lessons contain a warm-up, introduction to new concepts, new skill practice, and mixed practice, which is comprised of old and new problems.

Science

The focus of Science is to explore and celebrate God's creation. Students will use Apologia Science to gain knowledge and understanding of a concentrated Science subject. At home, students read the text and respond by answering questions specifically designed to draw the student's attention to key material. In class, hands-on experiments and activities take place to solidify new information. Science-related memory work will be assessed regularly throughout the year.

Memory Work

Memorization is a crucial tool for students in the grammar stage. It is how the bedrock of facts is built, upon which the house of dialectic and rhetoric stands. For continued practice with this skill, memory work builds from the third grade level to include lengthier Bible verses and poetry. Students also memorize geography, math facts, science and history facts, grammar rules, spelling rules, and more.

Latin

The study of Latin begins in fourth grade with a simple introduction to the culture and language. Students listen to a pronunciation CD in class and complete the *Prima Latina* workbook with guidance from the teacher.

SUMMER PREPARATION:

Keep reading! For a list of Classical literature, go to <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/celoop/1000.html>. To grow in writing skills, have students copy bible verses and beautiful poetry. Review AAS word and phonograms cards.

Math: review math facts (addition/subtraction/multiplication/division); consider "Mind Benders" workbooks, consider math worksheets left over from 3rd grade math workbook.

FOURTH GRADE CO-TEACHER SUPPLIES:

1 large dry erase board for use with All About Spelling phonics tiles, pencil sharpener, 1-1.5" binder (style/color your choice), Office Max Write On 8-tab Color plastic divider (Item # 20615390), page protectors, 3-hole hole punch, tape dispenser, stapler and printer.