

August, 2020
Grade 4 Syllabus

Dear Parent,

It is my pleasure and privilege to be teaching your child this year. As you probably know, grades 4 and 5 are a combined class, but for the most part are taught separately. On some occasions, classes are combined and taught as a single group. This happens most frequently with math and English. Math and English cover basically the same topics in grades 4 and 5, so on occasion these will be taught as a single group with grade 4 getting a modified homework assignment. At other times the topics may necessitate splitting the groups. Bible for both grades will use the grade 5 curriculum and will be taught as a combined class. I have modified the quizzes and tests to make the work easier and we usually discuss the workbook pages together. Reading shuffles back and forth between our reading book and project work. Project work is done with 5th grade, so classes are combined then; otherwise they are separate. History, science, spelling and penmanship will remain separate for grades 4 and 5 due to different content, although science occasionally overlaps and we do labs together. This has worked well in the past and the classes are small enough to allow for plenty of individualized instruction when the need arises. Please call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Science:

“You have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm.”
Jeremiah 32:17

Textbook: *Systems, Science Level Four* in the Purposeful Design series with an accompanying workbook.

Syllabus: Term 1 – Life Science (Biology)

“Design of Life,” “Order of Life,” “Diversity of Life,” “System of Life”

Term 2 – Physical Science (Chemistry and Physics)

“Energy and Heat,” “Light and Sound,” “Motion and Force,” “Matter and its Uses”

Term 3 – Earth and Space Science (geology, meteorology, and astronomy)

“The Lithosphere,” “The Hydrosphere,” “The Atmosphere,” “The Universe”

Term 4 – Health and Anatomy

“Body Systems I,” “Body Systems II”

Procedures:

- Students will keep a folder with vocabulary and notes. Reading, vocabulary and notes will be done daily, but will not be collected or graded until the day of the chapter test.
- A workbook is provided for student use. Some of this material will be assigned for homework, some are labs, and some are test review material. Labs are done together. Some of the workbook pages will be done as group work using the text or projector, other pages are suitable for independent work or homework.
- Tests are given at the end of each chapter. A Jeopardy game or other review game will be played the day before the test to review and a copy given for study use.

Homework:

- Homework is due the next day. Late homework will be accepted, but will have a 1 point penalty for each late day.
- Projects will be assigned each marking period and a rubric and due date will be provided in advance. These generally take the form of a poster and materials are supplied in class.

Grading:

- Vocabulary and notes are graded at the end of each chapter with the point total based on percentage of completion, not quality. They must stay caught up on vocabulary and notes.
- Most workbook pages are graded for accuracy with the exception of labs and review pages that we generally do together. These will be given points for completion only. (10 points = all done; 9 points = mostly, etc)
- Low test grades can be improved by doing test corrections. These must be done on a separate piece of paper and answers given as complete sentences. This is required for a failing test grade, but is optional for grades above 70.
- Homework counts for 1/3 of the marking period grade; notes, vocabulary and labs count for 1/3; tests and projects count for 1/3.

Math:

“The Lord shall add” Genesis 30:24

“God has taken away” Genesis 30:23

“I will greatly multiply” Genesis 3:16

“God divided” Genesis 1:4

Clearly God spent a lot of time doing math! So do we!

Textbook: *Mathematics 4*, Purposeful Design Series

Syllabus: The math curriculum is ambitious and I do not expect to cover everything. It will be a balance of new material and review of previous concepts.

- Term 1—Place value, addition, subtraction and simple multiplication and division facts.
- Term 2 – Multi-Digit Multiplication and Division
- Term 3 – Geometry and Measurement
- Term 4 – Fractions and Decimals

Procedures:

- I hope to get into the computer lab once a week. A lot of good applications and software are available for drills and games.
- A student folder will be used to take notes (vocabulary, rules, graphic organizers) These are collected and graded at the end of each chapter.
- Classwork consists of examples done at the white board and on their mini boards at their desks.
- Independent work will be assigned at the conclusion of the day's lesson. Some time may be given in class to work on this. I prefer to give worksheets when work needs to be done for homework, as the book is too large and cumbersome to send home.
- At least one quiz will be given per chapter.
- A study guide will be given and work will be done together to review for each test.

Homework: Homework is assigned for each lesson and is graded for accuracy. Anytime a student has difficulty with the homework, they are welcome to wait for the next day of school to discuss the problems with me. I will assist and they may try the assignment again the next night. This is not considered late work. Otherwise, homework is due the next day and a penalty point will be subtracted for each late day.

Grading: Homework (book problems, worksheets and any online work) will count for 1/3 of the marking period grade. Quizzes and notes will count for 1/3. Tests will count for 1/3.

History:

“By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice.” Proverbs 8:15

Textbook: *The History of Our United States* from A Beka Books with an accompanying *Geography Maps and Activities* workbook. *My PA Book*.

Syllabus: This year's history begins with the exploration of the New World and takes us on a trip through our nation's history. Hopefully, we will get up to modern times although usually we do not get further than the World Wars.

- Term 1 – Early Exploration and the Thirteen Colonies
- Term 2 – Wars: French and Indian, War for Independence, War of 1812, Civil War
- Term 3 – PA History, States and Capitals, Age of Progress
- Term 4 – Beyond Our Borders, World War I and II, Twentieth Century to Present

Procedures:

We will keep a notebook to record important vocabulary terms, people, events and notes. At least once during the marking period we will use the computer for further research on a particular topic. This may be in the form of a poster or report. Rubrics will be given in advance and materials provided. Each chapter also includes some geography information and activities. Daily activities may include reading the text, exploring maps, answering questions in the book, defining vocabulary, taking notes, and working in our activity book.

Homework: Comprehension check questions in the textbook and pages in the map and activity book are assigned for homework. Homework is due the next day with a 1 point penalty per day for each day late. Projects (1 per marking period) will also be assigned with a due date and rubric provided in advance.

Grading: Work done independently is graded for accuracy. Work done as a group is graded for completion. Homework (comprehension checks and activity pages) counts as 1/3 of the marking period grade. Quizzes (1-2 per chapter), notes and vocabulary count as 1/3 of the grade. Tests and projects count 1/3. Low test grades can be improved by doing test corrections. These must be done on a separate piece of paper and answers given as complete sentences. This is required for a failing test grade, but is optional for grades above 70.

Penmanship:

“You shall write. . .” Deuteronomy 6:9

Textbook: *Handwriting 4* by Zaner-Bloser

Syllabus:

- Term 1 – Strokes and Legibility
- Term 2 – Lowercase Letters and Numerals
- Term 3 – Uppercase Letters
- Term 4 – Writing Informational Pieces in Cursive

Procedures:

We will (usually) not be doing penmanship every day. Most likely we will work on it Monday, Wednesday, Friday. I will periodically collect and grade their work. We will use the white boards to work on their strokes, letters and numbers. Classwork and homework will be in their workbooks. Quizzes and tests will be given periodically. Quizzes are based on their handwriting ability and tests are based on their ability to recognize proper strokes, shapes, sizes, spacing and slant.

Homework:

Homework will consist of practice work in the workbook. It is due weekly. Points are given both for completion and also for conformity to the keys to legibility (spacing, slant, shape and size).

Grading:

Homework (the workbook) counts for 1/3. Writing samples and quizzes counts for 1/3. Tests count for 1/3.

Reading:

“They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood.” Nehemiah 8:8

Textbook: BJU Press *I Met You in a Story* text and workbook. *Read and Think Skills* Tests 4; A Beka Book, 2007

Syllabus:

Term 1 – Unit 1 “Exploits,” Book Report *The Whipping Boy*, Unit 2 Part 1 “Encounters”

Term 2 – Unit 2 Part 2 “Encounters,” Book Report (student choice), Unit 3 “Quests”

Term 3 – Unit 4 “Creatures,” Book Project, Unit 5 Part 1 “Potpourri,”

Term 4 – Unit 5 Part 2 “Potpourri,” Poetry Unit, Unit 6 “Heroes”

Procedures:

We will read aloud together or read silently/independently, usually each day. Workbook pages will be assigned for each story. Each story also has accompanying vocabulary words which we will create a foldable for. We will take a vocabulary quiz for each story and have two tests for each collection (unit). Each term features a different project. Term 1 we will be reading a book together, completing study guide questions, summarizing, and taking quizzes during the reading. We will take a test when we are finished reading, then watch the movie based on the book and compare and contrast it to the written version. Term 2 we will complete a book report on a book of their choice as well as a project of their choice to present the book to their classmates. Term 3 we will write and illustrate individual books. They will then read their book to their classmates or to younger students. Term 4 we will read and write poetry in conjunction with national poetry month.

Homework: Vocabulary definitions and workbook pages will be assigned for each story in the reading book units. Some reading will be done in class, but reading may also be assigned for homework. Workbook pages will be due the next day unless otherwise indicated. Vocabulary (when assigned) is due the day of the quiz. Work on book projects will be done in class, but some work will also need to be done at home. The due date and rubric information will be provided in advance. Late homework is subject to penalty points.

Grading:

Homework (workbook pages, study guides) counts 1/3 of grade. If we did it as a group, it will be graded based on completion (i.e. 10 = all done and well done, 9 = mostly done or a little missing, etc.) Vocabulary and quizzes count 1/3 of grade. Tests and projects count 1/3 of grade.

English:

“Study to show yourself approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15

Textbook: *English 4*, BJU Press

Syllabus:

Term 1 – Sentences, Compare/Contrast Essay, Nouns, Persuasive Essay
Term 2 – Verbs, Personal Narrative, Study Skills, Book Review
Term 3 – Pronouns, Writing Instructions, More Verbs, Writing a Friendly Letter
Term 4 – Adjectives and Adverbs, Writing Poetry, More Sentences, Research Report

Procedures:

We will go back and forth between grammar and writing each marking period. When we do grammar, we take notes during class and do the guided practice part of our workbook pages together. Independent practice pages are assigned for homework, as well as extra practice worksheets. There will be a mid-chapter quiz and an end-of chapter test. Writing features a designated project such as an essay. We will work on it together during class as well as at home. Their finished project will be graded as well as their outlines and rough drafts. A quiz will be given covering the process involved and associated terms. Rubrics are provided in advance.

Homework: Workbook pages and worksheets will be given for homework. It is due the following day. Penalty points will be deducted for each day late.

Grading: Homework will count as 1/3 of the grade. Quizzes and notes will count as 1/3. Tests and projects will count as 1/3.

Bible:

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16

Textbook: *Possessing the Land*; Positive Action Bible Curriculum, student copy of the Bible (any version)

Syllabus:

Term 1 – The Patriarchs, Israel through the Plagues and Ten Commandments

Term 2 – Wilderness Wandering, Judges, Ruth and Samuel

Term 3 – Saul, David, Solomon, Elijah and Elisha, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Term 4 – Major and Minor Prophets, focus on Daniel

Procedures:

The concepts in the Bible curriculum can be challenging for some. We usually read our verses together, taking turns or use the projector for biblegateway.com so we can see the verses in various translations. They may use whichever version they prefer, but I will usually use an easy-to-read version in class like NIV. Some of the workbook questions are fairly simple and I will allow them to work independently. For the most part, we discuss and answer these as a group. Vocabulary will be given for each lesson. They must learn these words for quizzes. We take a quiz after each lesson on the vocabulary and some simple comprehension. I provide verses when needed. We take a test every two-three lessons so we get three in each marking period. These will have a review guide provided in advance for study purposes.

Grading:

Homework (workbook pages) count 1/3 of the grade. Some of the pages will be graded for completion and some will be graded for accuracy. Lesson quizzes count 1/3 of the grade. Tests (3 per marking period) count 1/3 of the grade.

Spelling:

“The wise men were brought before me to read this writing and tell me what it means.” Daniel 5:15

Textbook: *Spelling Grade 4*; Purposeful Design, 2008

Syllabus:

Term 1 – Lessons 1 to 9

Term 2 – Lessons 10 to 18

Term 3 – Lessons 19 to 27

Term 4 – Lessons 28 to 36

Procedures:

Holidays and other interruptions can throw us off, but generally we take a pretest on Monday. They will fill in their missed words on their spelling contract and will have the remainder of the week to practice these missed words (maximum of 10) using the activities they choose on their contract. Contracts must be turned in by Friday. Workbook pages (4 per lesson) will be begun in class and finished for homework. On Thursdays we play a review game and on Fridays we take our posttest. Anyone missing 0 words on the pretest will be exempt from the post test as well as the spelling contract for that week.

Homework:

Homework will consist of the spelling contract and the workbook pages. Some of this may have already be done in class. The list of spelling words should come home in the Friday folder and be available to study in advance.

Grading:

Workbook pages count as 1/3 of the grade. The spelling contract counts for 1/3 of the grade and is graded on completion and accuracy. Anyone not missing any words in the pretest is exempt from the spelling contract. The post tests count as 1/3 of the grade.

Classroom rules and procedures will be discussed with your child on the first day of school and copies will be sent home. They are also posted in the room.

I look forward to working with you and teaching your child this year. Check FACTS SIS or e-mail me at sriley@greatcommissionschools.org to keep up-to-date on your child's grades and progress.

Sincerely,

Sue Riley