

# FOURTH GRADE

Grade Level Capacity 48

Class Sections 3

Students per Class 16

Student to Teacher Ratio 16:1



## GOALS

### Spiritual

Fourth Grade students follow the story of David from a shepherd to a king as they read *The Fugitive King* and spend time praying together as a class at the start of each day.

### Academic

Fourth Grade students continue building upon what was learned the previous year by increasing their reading fluency to 140 words per minute, mastering both single and multi-letter phonograms and spelling rules, and increasing their speed with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division math facts.

### Social/Emotional

Students continue to grow in independence this year and should manage their materials with supervision from parents and teachers. Students should be able to communicate to co-teachers (their parents) things said in the classroom regarding assignments in ParentsWeb.

## TRADITIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

### Cowboy Day

After studying the American cowboy, students put their skills to the test with cow (balloon) wrangling, target practice, and a chuck wagon.

### '50s Day

Students participate in activities right out of the 1950's including a sock hop, watching black & white TV shows, and interviewing family members who were alive during the '50s!

### Poetry Cafe

The Fourth Grade's study of poetry (both in reading and writing) culminates with the Poetry Café when students recite some of their best poetry to classmates and parents.

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL OVERVIEW

### Grammar Stage

In the Grammar School, basic factual content and rules – the “grammar” – of each subject is mastered. The curricular emphasis during these years is on learning basic facts and figures during the time when children love to memorize (and when they are best at doing so).

### Parent Involvement

The parent's role in Grammar School is that of a co-teacher. As such, one parent needs to lead in the co-teaching role and is expected to become familiar with the curriculum and basic teaching techniques to actively engage and implement lessons on school at home days. There are also ample opportunities for parents to volunteer on-campus as a Home Room Helper, Copy Mom, Field Trip Chaperone, and more. Parents are also encouraged to attend in-class presentations and grade level special events.

### School Traditions

Special Grammar School traditions include Chapel, Veritas ROCKS, a special Homecoming Pep Rally, a winter Daddy-Daughter Dance, and an annual Food Drive.

### Community Connections

Opportunities for Grammar School students to connect to the entire community include Adopt a School of Rhetoric Athlete, MLK Service Day, Family Defender Night, and Fall Fest.

### Grammar School Chapel

Grammar School students gather regularly for Chapel. During this time, students participate in liturgies such as the singing of the Doxology, saying the Lord's Prayer, and singing Shalom. They also discuss what it means to be a Veritas Valiant.

### Veritas ROCKS

Based on the Biblical concept of building our homes on rock and not on sand, Veritas ROCKS summarizes the standard of behavior that will be promoted at Veritas Academy:

- R – Respect Authority
- O – Others are Important
- C – Correction: Accept it and Learn from it
- K – Keep Yourself Prepared
- S – Seek Excellence

## CORE CLASSES

<b>MATH</b>	This course will cover whole numbers and place value up to 10 million, factors and multiples, estimation in addition/subtraction/multiplication/division, multiplication/division of 4 digit numbers by 1 and 2 digit numbers, addition/subtraction/multiplication of fractions, tables and graphs, geometry, area and perimeter, addition/subtraction/multiplication/division of decimals, conversion between decimals and fractions, division of money and measurement units, and beginning algebraic concepts.
<b>HANDWRITING</b>	While no formal review is given, students are expected to utilize cursive on most assignments.
<b>READING</b>	The love of reading is best caught when students read a book that fits them. Students receive individualized instruction by reading through basal readers with a controlled vocabulary. As students are ready, they transition into appropriate chapter books and specified comprehension questions are introduced. Classes enjoy <i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i> and <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> as their class read-aloud. Classes also prepare <i>A Christmas Carol</i> for a read-aloud presentation at Christmas.
<b>SPELLING</b>	Students continue to build their knowledge of single and multi-letter phonograms and study the spelling of the most frequently used words. Several spelling rules are reviewed as words grow more challenging.
<b>MEMORY WORK</b>	With the desire that families would memorize Scripture together, all GS students memorize a passage of Scripture along with the rest of the school. "Thinking Points" are provided to facilitate meaningful discussion around the dinner table.

## DAILY SCHEDULE 8:20AM – 3PM, WITH AN OPTIONAL ELECTIVE UNTIL 4PM

Morning Meeting – 20 minutes	Grammar – 20 minutes	Science/History – 30-40 minutes
Math – 60-70 minutes	Reading – 60 minutes	Specials Wheel – 50 minutes
Spelling – 20 minutes	Latin – 10 minutes	
Writing – 25-30 minutes	Lunch/Recess – 40 minutes	

IN GRAMMAR SCHOOL, COURSES ARE COMBINED INTO ONE CORE BLOCK AND TEACHERS STRUCTURE THE SCHOOL DAY TO INCLUDE INSTRUCTION OF ALL SUBJECTS. THIS DAILY SCHEDULE IS A GENERAL GUIDE OF A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY.

## SCHOOL AT HOME DAY GENERALLY 4-5 HOURS PER DAY

Math – 1-1.5 hours	Language Arts – 2-2.5 hours	Science/History – 30-40 minute
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## FIELD TRIPS

Fourth Grade students go on two specifically crafted field trips that are aimed at supporting the grade level's curriculum. The field trips are teacher-led, occur on a Veritas classroom day, and are required for students enrolled in the class.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
SCIENCE MILL	THE NIMITZ MUSEUM



## PRESENTATIONS/PROJECTS

In order to provide ample opportunities for students to become comfortable and confident in their public speaking skills, Fourth Graders have two major presentations during the school year. Rhetoric skills learned in Grammar and Logic schools build toward the capstone Senior Thesis, a 20-minute memorized speech that students present and defend in the spring of their Senior year.

<b>FALL</b>	<b>SPRING</b>
SIMPLE MACHINES PROJECT	LIVING HISTORY MUSEUM