

GRADE 4

Mrs. Angela Colibaba & Ms. Tanya Ripoli

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

We believe that every child is a unique gift from God and will have a unique path in their learning process; therefore, we will provide the children with a variety of learning experiences and work with each child to meet their individual needs.

We believe that children should actively participate in their own learning process; therefore, we will encourage discovery, creativity and exploration during our lessons as well as providing cooperative and independent learning opportunities.

COMMUNICATION

Open communication between parents and teachers is extremely important as we work together for the benefit of your child. Please feel free to contact us on seesaw to find a time to speak on the phone or in person. Please include both teachers in your messages so we can all be on the same page.

CURRICULUM

Math Program

- We will use a variety of sources for math work including Math Makes Sense, Journeys, and teacher created materials.
- Students will be introduced to new concepts through a variety of hands-on learning activities.
- On most days, the students will do practice questions in class; however, sometimes students may be given practice questions to be completed at home.
- At the end of every unit there will be a test and/or assignment for the students to demonstrate what they have learned. Several days notice will be given for major tests

Social Studies

- The focus of the social studies program is early contact between explorers and Indigenous Peoples
- We will begin the year learning about European explorers.
- Second term - Fur trade
- Third term - Confederation

Science

- First term – biomes
- Second term - matter / moon phases
- Third term - energy

Religion

- We will be using the Christ Our Life program to enrich the student's knowledge of our Christian Catholic faith.
- The Archdiocesan theme for this school year is "Living, Celebrating and Proclaiming Our Faith." It is a 3 year theme and we will be focusing on "Living Our Faith" this year.
- Please keep an eye on Mr. Veltri's Principal's Memo for Mass dates and times if you would like to attend. The Grade 4 class will prepare Mass on November 23, 2023 and April 4, 2024.

Language Arts

Reading:

- Reading is an important part of all subject areas. A variety of literature will be used to compliment the various themes this year. Students will read 2 novels in class this year (*Stone Fox* and *Frindle*). Students are encouraged to read at home daily for at least 20 minutes. Students should read both silently and aloud to further develop their reading skills. It is also important that students read a variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

Writing:

- The overall writing process (pre-writing, drafting, editing, proofreading, publishing, and presenting) will be explored. Students will also learn about writing paragraphs, developing short stories, writing poems, report writing, and journal writing.

Spelling

- Weekly spelling words will be given on Mondays. Activities to reinforce the pattern(s) will be handed out on Tuesdays. These activities will be due on Thursdays. Formal spelling tests will be given on Fridays. Please ensure your child studies the weekly words on a daily basis.

Listening and Speaking:

- Various listening and speaking experiences will be provided. Students will also be involved in choral speaking, oral reading, presentations, discussions, and drama.

Physical Education

- P.E. will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays with Ms. Campbell. The children should bring their full P.E. uniform on these days. Fitness Blocks will take place on Mondays and Fridays. The children will only need their runners on these days.

Music

- Music class with Ms. Ranallo takes place on Wednesdays.

Applied Design, Skills, & Technologies

- ADST class with Ms. Ranallo takes place on Fridays.
- We have a bonus in-class explorative STEAM block on Tuesdays during the first half of the school year.

French

- Grade 4 will have French with Mrs. Ponis on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Library

- Library class with Mrs. Wilkinson takes place on Mondays. Book exchange will be held on Fridays during the ADST block. We ask that students return their Library books to school every Thursday, so that they are able to check out new books the following day.

Extracurricular Activities

- Holy Cross offers many extracurricular activities. Students are encouraged to participate in the various activities offered throughout the school year.

Enrichment

- Enrichment will take place in-class this year and all students will participate.

Homework Expectations

- A guideline for Grade 4 is to expect 30-45 minutes of homework per day.
- This will vary for each child.
- Please make sure to check and sign your child's agenda each evening.

Tests

- Students will receive ample time to study for tests.
- Study guides will be provided to students with resources to support their studying.
- Completed and marked tests will come home via the student's agenda and must be signed and returned to school the next day.
- Quizlet and other digital tools will be provided to the students for some tests to assist with studying

FSA's

- October 9 - November 13 (the exact schedule is still being developed)
- Please refrain from booking any family gatherings or appointments during this time. We will be sending out a detailed schedule shortly.
- Online component for math and reading
- Written component in the booklet for math word problems and reading response paragraphs

Forms, Money, and Book Orders

- Please ensure any money sent to school is sealed in an envelope or Ziploc bag with your child's name and grade clearly printed on the front. All money and notes should be handed in first thing in the morning.

Birthdays

- We know birthdays are very exciting events and want to recognize students on their special day. **Please let us know ahead of time if you wish to bring treats into the class for your child's birthday.**
- We also ask that birthday invitations not be distributed at school, as this can sometimes be very difficult when some students are left out.

Field Trips

- In class field trip opportunities will be given (High Touch, High Tech)
- Grouse Mountain in January/February
 - Permission forms for field trips will be sent home a few weeks in advance of the field trip. If Parent Volunteers are required for an out-of-school field trip, it will be indicated on the form. Please understand that we cannot usually bring all the parents that volunteer on each field trip.

Superstar

- Each student will have a turn to be the "Superstar" for a week. They will have several special jobs to do around the classroom, such as helping us and doing a special presentation. Students will be given a package to fill out the week prior to their presentation, which will be displayed in the classroom during their week.

Behaviour

- Please ensure your child has read the front section of their planner with the school expectations and code of conduct. In class, we will be discussing what we want our class to be like and create a positive classroom environment. We will work on problem solving and learning how to treat others respectfully throughout the year. Students are expected to follow class and school rules at all times.
- As we are now in the intermediate grades, we like to focus on more student maturity and independence. The students will be taking more responsibility for their learning and organization.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions. We are looking forward to a great year!

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