

## Fourth Grade Course Description for 2011/2012

Liberty Christian School incorporates the Bob Jones Publishing Curriculum at the elementary level for all subjects save mathematics. Mathematics continues to be taught from the ACSI Publishing program. Both publishers' programs are of topnotch quality!

**Bible**—Each day includes the study of God's Word. Topics include God's judgment and grace, building godly character, obedience, holiness, and growing in grace and knowledge. Specific Bible verses pertaining to the weekly lessons are memorized. Memory verse tests are on **Fridays** beginning the first full week of school. Along with verse tests, students will be quizzed after each unit on material covered in class. Students also spend quiet time outside of class using a monthly **H.A.B.I.T.** guideline provided in the work text.

**Math**— By fourth grade mastery of addition and subtraction facts is expected\*. Daily fact drills from the Mad Dog Math program not only encourage such mastery and proficiency, it also does so for their multiplication and division facts

\***Note**—Until mastery of facts is achieved, students have a written fact assignment each school night in addition to other assigned work. On the Homework Sheet it is written as "MDM fact family 1X."

Actual math lessons emphasize computation as well as problem solving. One to two quizzes are given in each unit; unit tests are every three to four weeks. Units of study include number theory, computation, geometry, and fractions. Homework is given two to three times a week. During a unit of study, students keep all notes (including worksheets and homework papers) in the math section of their binders TO REVIEW OFTEN.

To ensure continual review of math skills, students also participate in "Mountain Math" which is an in-class, bi-weekly activity.

**Spelling**—Weekly lessons focus on specific spelling practices/rules. Two teacher-chosen words, usually from other subject matter, round out each word list. Study sheets are written each Friday, so students can begin learning the new words over the weekend. It is expected that study sheets are reviewed *each* night, with written homework assigned on Fridays that is due Wednesdays. Assignments encourage students to practice language development as well as explore dictionary skills related to their words. A "functional" spelling grade will be taken on various writing assignments, too. **Spelling tests are on Fridays** beginning the first full week of school.

**English**—Since fourth grade is a transition year from "learning to read and write" to "reading and writing to learn," assignments are given to help students experience success during this transition. Students use their reading skills to research topics in other curricular areas such as science and history. To enhance the regular study of English skills, students participate in Mountain Language. NOTE--Students' writing is assessed according to the *Six Traits of Writing* program. Not all writing tasks will be graded on all

aspects of the writing process; not all writing tasks will be “published” (meaning, written in a final copy).

All “notes” for units of study are to be kept in the students’ binders. Grammar tests occur approximately every three weeks with one or more quizzes given during the unit to ensure student on-going learning. On test days, notes will be collected and graded for completeness.

**Science**—Science includes a variety of content lessons and objectives. Included is a study on living things where the study of ecosystems is explored. Simple machines are studied with emphasis on force, effort, and the different types of simple machines. Magnetism, electricity, light, and astronomy are also studied.

Units of study are broken down into 3-4 week sections, with one to two quizzes per section and a test OR project grade at a section’s conclusion. There are many opportunities for experiments and subject exploration. Grades will be taken on in-class activities, class participation, text work, quizzes, tests, and projects. Workbook pages and other “notes” will be kept in the *science* section of the student’s binder and will be collected on test days and graded for completeness.

**History/Social Science**—California’s history is our focus. History sections are broken down into 4-week units of study. Quizzes and tests are part of each study. Grades will be taken on in-class activities, text work, skill work, class participation, quizzes, tests, and projects. Again, as in science, workbook pages and “notes” will be kept in the *history* section of the student’s binder and will be collected on test days and graded for their completeness.

Students will learn state regions by name, as well as the locations and capitals of the states in *each* region. By year’s end, the goal for fourth graders is to know the locations and capitals of all 50 states.

**Reading**—Reading grades reflect progress in these areas: comprehension, vocabulary development, skill work, literature discussions, and log completion. All fourth graders read selections from the text, *Reading in Christian Schools*. This year they also read *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and *Two Years Before the Mast*. The first book is a fictional piece that brings a “fresh” perspective to our Christmas season. The second prepares boys and girls for our January field trip to the Brig Pilgrim in Dana Point Harbor.

To encourage outside leisure reading, **students are required to read at least 15 minutes each school day and maintain a reading log of their reading.**

Lastly, a fun incentive to promote better reading is our **Reading Buddies** program. Fourth graders join fifth graders this year as they each read to two or three kindergartners or first graders. This is a highlight of the week, especially for the little ones. The bond created is amazing! Even as teenagers, high school boys and girls still reminisce about reading buddies. It truly is a wonderful experience.

**Penmanship**—Legible penmanship is critical for written communication. Thus, penmanship is graded as O (Outstanding), G (Good), S (Satisfactory), or N (Needs Improvement) for neatness, accepted letter constructions, and consistency. Two or more penmanship grades will be taken each week. Look for penmanship grades in the upper right hand corner of student papers. NOTE--As penmanship is given as *a quarterly grade*, look for it on students' quarterly and semester report cards.

**Physical Education, Library/Spanish, and Media (Computer Lab) will also be a part of your child's education here at LCS.** Mrs. Welch oversees library/Spanish time, and Mrs. Morici teaches media. Performance/participation grades of O, G, S, and N are given for PE and Media on the students' semester reports. Families may find out more about these teachers on their respective home pages at [www.libertychristian.org](http://www.libertychristian.org).