

Rosslyn Academy

Grade 4



Program Overview with Selected Sample Objectives

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In Grade 4, six quality literature books are the core for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Comprehension and vocabulary skills continue to grow. The core stories also allow integration of Biblical principles, science, social studies, health, art, and other subjects.

With *Six Traits Writing*, students are able to focus on one area of writing at a time. The six traits of writing are: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions.

Math skills are developed using Harcourt Brace and Company's *Mathematics PLUS* textbook. Word problems and thinking questions are an important part of math instruction at Rosslyn.

Full Option Science System (FOSS) utilizes hands-on activities and inquiry-based learning in science. Students will hike Mt. Longonot, furthering their knowledge and experience regarding volcanoes, in this all day field trip.

The focus of our social studies curriculum is on the varieties of landforms around the world and the inhabitants (human and animal) residing there. Units of study include plains/grasslands, deserts, mountain regions, and forests of the world.

Grade 4 studies doctrine of the Bible under the theme Christ and His Word. We encourage children to use their personal NIV (*New International Version*) Bible, provided by Rosslyn Academy, for both home and school reading.

Specialists teach your child a second language (either Kiswahili or Korean), as well as art, music, physical education, science, computer, and library skills. Each teacher has a vital part in your child's week.

Bible

Effective learning of Biblical principles, resulting in life change, is fully dependent upon the work of the Holy Spirit. These principles and their application are integrated throughout the school curriculum.

The Rosslyn Academy Bible Curriculum

- Exposes the student to the breadth of the Bible
- Highlights basic doctrines and Biblical character traits
- Uses Scripture memorization among its strategies
- Emphasizes who God is
- Challenges students to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord
- Encourages students to accept their self worth as unique creations in God's image
- Promotes respect for persons regardless of race, culture, faith, and values
- Leads students toward spiritually mature choices in attitude and behavior
- Fosters personal growth

Grade 4 studies **Doctrine** under the theme **Christ and His Word**

Concepts include Bible study skill, doctrines of the Bible, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, man, sin, salvation, heaven and hell, angels, the church, future events, the Christian life: prayer, devotions, sharing the good news, holding on to the truth; the names of Christ; and Easter.

The Character Counts program is integrated into our week for the purpose of teaching children responsible character traits. A person of character is: respectful of self and others, trustworthy, fair, responsible, caring and a good citizen. By addressing each of these character traits formally, Rosslyn's intent is to motivate each individual to become the person God created him to be.

Language Arts

Language arts instruction at Rosslyn Academy is based on the dynamic interrelationships of listening, speaking, reading, and writing—God's gift of communication to humans.

Listening

The student will:

- Demonstrate active listening to others' presentations
- Listen to, understand, and follow directions



Speaking

The student will:

- Read aloud previewed materials for fluency and expression
- Give oral reports, individually or with partners, which convey information from several sources, demonstrate ability to organize and present ideas, and use effective public speaking skills

Reading

Literature - The student will:

- Read several chapter books with his/her classmates throughout the year
- Recognize, understand, and identify setting, plot, character, mood/tone, point of view, figurative language, author's purpose
- Use the following comprehension strategies: summarize a selection, identify the topic sentence, provide an alternative ending, recognize techniques of persuasion or figurative language, critique and evaluate a reading selection, express and support an opinion about a passage, draw conclusions, recognize cause and effect, predict outcomes, ask questions to clarify



- Use the STAR Reader and Accelerated Reader (AR) programs in order to identify reading level
- Set an individual reading goal and strive to meet it each academic quarter by reading books within the student's ZPD (Zone of Proximal Development)
- Self-monitor comprehension of individual reading within the student's ZPD by taking AR book quizzes

Word Analysis/Vocabulary - The student will:

- Use prefixes and suffixes as clues; understand multiple meanings
- Extend vocabulary in other content areas

Writing

Writing - The student will:

- Use the *6 Traits Writing* process (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions)
- Identify the elements of a paragraph; indentation, topic sentence, supporting details, conclusion
- Write for a variety of purposes—persuasive paragraph, letter, personal narrative, autobiographical incident, research-based report, poetry, journals, and descriptive paragraph

Grammar and Mechanics - The student will:

- Identify subject and predicate; identify nouns, verbs, adverbs and adjectives; use apostrophes for possession; recognize a sentence as complete; capitalize and punctuate correctly

Handwriting - The student will:

- Use his/her best handwriting in all assignments
- Review and practice cursive writing

Spelling - The student will:

- Spell high-frequency words correctly in all writing
- Take a weekly spelling test





Research and Library Skills

In addition to stimulating a love for books and reading, the library program develops students' abilities to be effective users of ideas and information. The librarian works with the classroom teacher to coordinate the teaching of library and research skills with the classroom curriculum, making use of the Big6 Information Problem Solving Process (Task Definition, Information Seeking Strategies, Location and Access, Use of Information, Synthesis, Evaluation).

The student will:

- Understand the purpose and basic organization of the Dewey Decimal Classification System
- Use the parts of a book to locate information: title page, table of contents, glossary, index.
- Use basic reference sources: atlas, dictionary, encyclopedia, and thesaurus.
- Formulate research questions on a specific topic.
- Search the online catalog independently and use call numbers to access resources in the library..
- Take notes from both print and electronic sources, including the Internet.
- Organize information; write a report or produce another product; create a bibliography.

Math

Mathematics is a science of patterns which allows us to look deeper into the order and precision found in the world around us, God's creation. The purpose of the mathematical instruction at Rosslyn Academy is to develop students who are problem solvers, critical thinkers, and effective mathematical communicators.

Problem Solving – The student will:

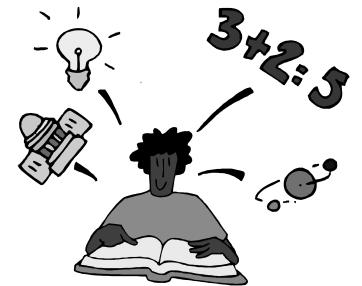
- Create and solve word problems using the four operations, fractions, and decimals
- Use 4-step problem solving: think, explore, solve, look back

Communication/Reasoning – The student will:

- Explain and record reasoning using objects, words, technology
- Draw conclusions from statistics and graphs
- Justify simple generalizations from sets of examples
- Develop the skill needed for appropriate use of equipment

Estimation – The student will:

- Round whole numbers; estimate sums, products, quotients
- Have a sense of the size of a solution; estimate solutions
- Estimate sums and differences in monetary amounts



Number Sense and Numeration – The student will:

- Read, write, compare, and order whole numbers to 1,000,000
- Express written numbers correctly
- Use models to remember multiplication and division facts
- Identify the place value of digits of decimal numbers

Concepts of Whole Numbers/Operations/Computation– The student will:

- Know multiplication facts to 12×12 ; division facts to $144/12$
- Develop a variety of mental methods of computation
- Add, subtract numbers up to four digits; find remainders
- Multiply three-digit numbers by one- and two-digit numbers

Geometry and Spatial Sense – The student will:

- Identify and use right angles, equal angles; parallel lines
- Identify and draw points, lines, segments, rays, angles

Measurement - The student will:

- Determine the value of 1,000,000 (USD and KS)
- Read scales with accuracy
- Approximate conversion of standard and metric measures
- Estimate and find perimeter; find area using manipulatives
- Find area in square units; estimate and measure capacity
- Estimate and measure length and volume in metric
- Estimate and find weight in pounds and ounces

Statistics and Probability - The student will:

- Interpret tables used in everyday life
- Collect and represent data using graphs, tables, diagrams
- Determine the probability of a given simple event

Fractions and Decimals - The student will:

- Understand and use fractions and decimals
- Compare, add, subtract fractions; form mixed numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply decimal numbers

Patterns and Relationships - The student will:

- Use patterns to solve problems; extend patterns

Connections - The student will:

- Identify and apply math in everyday situations and other disciplines

Technology - The student will:

- Use a calculator, computer, and other sources as tools

Social Studies

Christians as citizens of the kingdom of God must live out their faith ethically, morally, and wisely in the kingdoms of mankind.

Our social studies curriculum focuses on world geography. A geography simulation game called "Caravans" enables students to broaden their research skills, work together as a team and orally present information they have acquired about countries of the world. Four main units of study include biomes such as plains, deserts, mountain regions, and forests of the world.

Science

Science education at Rosslyn emphasizes experiential learning. Rather than using textbooks, students learn through direct observation, group projects, experiments, and library research. Along with science skills, the teacher encourages thankfulness to God and responsible stewardship of God's creation.

Water - The student will:

- Observe the effect of surface tension and temperature on water
- Explore factors that change the rate at which water evaporates
- Describe the water cycle, water "hardness," and water quality

Magnets & Electricity - The student will:

- Test the way that magnets affect other objects, including other magnets
- Classify objects as "conductors" or "insulators" and electric circuits as "open" or "closed"
- Create several types of electrical circuits and explain their behavior

Earth Materials - The student will:

- Make careful records of the properties rocks and minerals and identify several *common ones*
- Identify minerals by testing for hardness and identify rocks by testing for calcite
- Describe the relationship between rocks and minerals

Landforms - The student will:



- Create models and maps and explain their relationship to things that represent
- Use models to investigate the behavior of rivers
- Read topographical maps and compare them to aerial photos

Human Body - The student will:

- Show an understanding of the function and location of the each part of the digestive and respiratory systems
- Build a model of the digestive system with a group of classmates
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic nutrients the body needs to stay healthy

Kiswahili

Instruction in this class will expand students' knowledge of the language through oral practice, understanding and appreciation of various cultural aspects.

The student will:

- Identify and use appropriate greetings
- Recall vocabulary to describe objects
- Decode and give simple instructions
- Exchange information with peers
- Utilize accurate grammar and structure to perform basic functions
- Present simple oral reports
- Recite poetry
- Write correct sentences and short paragraphs
- Celebrate holidays and traditions through food, dress and music
- Know basic cultural beliefs of people relating to family, school, work and play



Health

Rosslyn Academy is committed to following Christ's example of a balanced life. Therefore we desire growth in four areas: wisdom (mental/emotional), stature

(physical), favor with *God* (spiritual), and favor with man (social). Consistent with our integrated-based philosophy of education, we strive to incorporate instruction for life-long wellness throughout the curriculum.

Goals include that the students respect their bodies; know environmental influences on health; principles of family, mental, and emotional health; concepts and practices concerning injury prevention and safety; concepts of nutrition and diet; influences on personal health and disease prevention and control; aspects of substance abuse; and concepts of growth and development.

Art

The visual arts program at Rosslyn strives to enhance the visual expression of each student through the study of art history and by involving him/her in creative artwork that incorporates the elements and principles of design.

The student will:

- Sketch items and people in motion
- Create wordless messages, monoprints, picture puzzles, flipbooks, stencil prints and pinch pots
- Draw maps, different views, visual texture, crowds, caricatures, mechanicals and portraits
- See like an artist, light/shadow, light/color
- Plan a still life, an art show, as well as parks and gardens
- Mix colors
- Paint a still life, the sea and people
- Sculpt mech-animals and found objects
- Stitch a picture
- Design a product, a flag and a mosaic
- Invent new alphabets
- Record images with light
- Express moods and ideas
- Communicate through art
- Discuss and critique personal artwork and the work of others
- Locate artists in our community



Computer Technology

The student will:

- Learn correct keyboarding of all alphabetic keys (both lowercase and uppercase)
- Improve keyboarding accuracy and speed
- Learn and use relevant computer terminology
- Create picture stories using various programs
- Learn and apply simple computer programming concepts using LOGO
- Learn basic word processing skills
- Type and edit projects in collaboration with the classroom teacher



Physical Education

In this class, the student will develop bodily self-awareness, physical skills and knowledge through participating in physical activity.

Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a knowledge of team sports
- Reflect positive character development and social skills based on Biblical principles
- Understand and evaluate the role physical activity has in their life
- Achieve and maintain an appropriate level of fitness
- Display necessary skills for playing games and participating in various leisure activities



Activities:

- Soccer
- Kickball/Softball
- Basketball
- Court Hockey/Field Hockey
- Fitness Activities
- Assorted Games and Activities (i.e. juggling, scooters, parachute)

Music

God gave us music for enjoyment—as listeners or participants. In response, we use music to praise and worship God.

The student will:

- Sing in parts (melody/harmony)
- Be introduced to music composition
- Discuss forms of music
- Sing/Play an instrument to a variety of rhythms, including syncopated
- Learn to play the recorder
- Play accompaniment using percussion instruments such as wooden blocks, tambourine, and timpani
- Study several Western composers, their music and musical styles



How Parents Can Help

Activities That Support Your Child's Learning

- Listen to your child
- Read to and with your child, asking questions about what is being read
- Praise your child's reading
- Encourage older children to read to their younger siblings
- Model the importance of reading by being a reader yourself
- Talk with your child rather than at him/her
- Help your child keep a writing journal
- Provide a quiet place for homework and study
- Encourage early completion of homework while allowing the child to incur the natural consequences of lapses
- Help your child capitalize on his learning style
- Allow your child as much independence as he proves he/she can handle
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers
- Celebrate successes
- Create special times to be alone with your child to participate in activities (cooking dinner, working in the shop, etc.)
- Take your child to places and talk about the visits
- Limit time spent on computer games
- Tell your child family stories, especially events that happened when you were his/her age
- Watch television with your child and discuss the programs together; limit viewing time; choose programs with care
- Play memory and math games, vocabulary games, physical games
- Talk with your child about the school work he/she brings home
- Give your child responsibilities
- Communicate your expectations regarding his/her behavior and performance at school



"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (NIV)

Notes

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