



FOURTH GRADE



"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically..."



Fourth Grade at Covenant is a year of steady strides. Independent learners apply the skills and knowledge presented to them through direct instruction and demonstrate proficiency through narrative writing, complex problem solving and computation, literary discussions, and independent and group projects. By combining active learning with classical methods of direct instruction, repetition, recitation, memorization and repeated application, our fourth graders will use their solid skills to grow as students who are now responsible for the outcome. Fourth graders partner with their teachers as they assume the posture and responsibility of a life long learner.

Glancing into a 4th Grade classroom you might see:

- An entry way to a Christmas wonderland, and paper snowflakes hanging from the windows...children inside are excitedly discussing plot line and their favorite characters in the classic *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The teacher is focused on helping them develop strong comprehension strategies, while also providing an environment that fosters stimulating discussion about themes, story elements and content.
- Children sitting in their desks, either alone or in small groups, practicing cursive letter formation, writing paragraphs, short essays and stories that make a point, and exercising the many skills of literacy both individually and in small and large groups.
- A group of children rhyming and rapping their way through grammar jingles about nouns, pronouns, prepositions, etc. Later, with the teacher at the SMARTBoard, they could be working on diagramming sentences applying their jingle “rules”.
- Heads bent together as students are sitting around their desks designing timelines of historical events—perhaps today they're working on the rise of Greece or Rome. They're creating mosaics in the style of Greek artists, or discussing the injustices they find in the feudal societies of the Middle Ages. The classroom walls are covered with student work and inspirational messages.
- Children focused on learning the importance of the study of Latin and it's vocabulary, grammar, and word components.
- A group of 10 year olds thoughtfully posing strategies to solve the word problem reflected on the SMARTBoard. Some days, they're using Cheez-Its to discover the area of a shape. Others, they're creating a proposal for a landscaping contract, accounting for each material including a fenced perimeter, and area to be covered with sod minus the area required to plant trees and flowerbeds. Other topics could include math facts, multiplication and division, fractions, decimals, percentages and geometry.
- Children learning about their key Bible verses of the week, exploring the truths evident in God's holy, inspired word and worshipping Him through music, prayer and recitation of scripture.
- Students building simple circuits, eagerly attempting to light that bulb, or creating models of the human skeletal system, or perhaps they are attempting to build an unsinkable ship as part of their floating and sinking unit. The children are engaged in a fun and informative science curriculum, as they learn first hand how things work.