Fourth Grade Course Description
Overview for Parents

Teacher: Michele George
Content Goals

Language Arts
In fourth grade the language arts program includes reading for comprehension (The Fourth Grade Core Knowledge Reader, Junior Great Books, and reading journal books), composition, grammar, spelling, Daily Oral Language (D.O.L.), and vocabulary enrichment.

Students will:
- further develop comprehension strategies including: visualization, cause and effect, and predictions
- make inferences from the text
- begin using evidence to support answers to questions
- expand written and expressive vocabulary
- develop editing and revising skills
- begin writing multi-paragraph pieces using topic paragraphs, transition sentences, and concluding paragraphs
- write in a variety of genres including: poetry, narrative, expository, descriptive, creative, and persuasive
- develop an understanding for the structure of the English language through direct grammar instruction
- review spelling rules and focus on spelling in context including the most commonly used words and the most frequently misspelled words in the English language

Geography
Topics covered include:
- major rivers and major mountain ranges of the seven continents
- latitude and longitude
- variety of types of maps
- geography terms
- geography and climate
- geography of Africa

New Hampshire Studies
Topics covered include:
- geography of New Hampshire
- government
- history
- important people

History
The fourth grade history curriculum covers a wide range of topics. We begin the year with a unit on Medieval Europe. Here we will learn about the feudal system, manor, castle, and city life, the Crusades, the Magna Carta, and important figures of this time. We will finish this unit with a Medieval Feast and a class performance of Robin Hood. Then we shift our focus to Medieval Islamic Empires and Medieval African Kingdoms. We then explore Dynasties of China, and finally, we finish the year with a unit on the American Revolution, moving from the French and Indian War to the founding of our nation. Topics will be taught using both fiction and non-fiction reading selections, as well as poems, songs, and visual arts. There will be opportunities for writing within this curriculum, as well as opportunities for hands on projects.
Core Virtues  For character education we use a program called Core Virtues. This program was created by our founding head at Crossroads, Mary Beth Klee. Every month we introduce a new virtue such as respect, loyalty, and gratitude. We bring these virtues to life through the oral reading and discussion of high quality literature, modeling, and self-reflection.

Expectations for Students

- arrive on time
- assume responsibility for work
- learn to use an assignment book
- turn work in on time and completed
- follow the classroom rules
- be respectful of other students and materials
- participate in each class

Homework Requirements

- 45 minutes to 1 hour each night
- reading-- every night
- math – every night
- writing – most writing is done in class
- vocabulary based on history or literature (weekly quizzes)
- grammar – “Voyages in English” twice per week
- spelling is an individualized program with biweekly quizzes

Contacting the Teacher

By e-mail at school michele.george@crossroadsacademy.org
or by phone at school (603) 795-3111 Ext. 110