

S J C S



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 4TH GRADE

This curriculum overview is designed to summarize the major goals of the instructional program for Fourth Grade at St. James Cathedral School.

Although the curriculum is presented in this document by different subject areas, the skills and competencies from each area are often integrated during daily instruction.

The curriculum of St. James has been designed to follow the recommendations of the Diocese of Orlando and meets and/or exceeds the expectations set forth in the Florida State Standards.

The curriculum is enhanced or modified yearly to meet the needs of our student population.

SJCS

Academic excellence and spiritual enrichment since 1928.

Our Mission

St. James Cathedral School is an educational ministry of St. James Cathedral Church. A Catholic school committed to outstanding academic and spiritual development of all students, St. James Cathedral School provides varied opportunities for students to discover and develop their unique God-given gifts in a safe and stimulating learning environment. The love and stewardship of Jesus is our inspiration. We come to learn; we leave to serve.

Our Beliefs

We believe it is our mission as Catholic educators to model the values and beliefs we teach in a faith-based community that fosters self-respect and respect for others.

We believe it is our role to develop and foster each child's unique, God-given gifts by encouraging students to do all they are capable of doing by themselves in child-centered classrooms where teachers act as facilitators.

We believe that Catholic schools should provide children with a spiritual and academic foundation that will lead to the development of creative and ethical problem solvers who will make a positive contribution to our world.

We believe that a St. James education should include intellectual, spiritual, moral and emotional formation that reflects the values we hold most dearly... integrity, honesty, moral courage, discipline and initiative.

505 East Ridgewood Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803

Phone: 407-841-4432
Fax: 407-648-4603
www.stjcs.com

St. James Cathedral School, Orlando FL
All Rights Reserved.



Intermediate

4th Grade Academics



Mathematics

GO Math! at both the elementary and middle school levels combines 21st-century educational technology with modern content, dynamic interactivities, and a variety of instructional videos to engage today's digital natives.

Every student is supported through the universal access features of the program as they learn to think critically and apply their math knowledge.

Whether using the innovative Online Student Edition or Write-in Student Edition, students have all the resources they need to succeed.

Social Studies

The focus is on the state of Florida with emphasis on developing a knowledge and understanding of Florida's past, present, and future.

We will extensively study the road to statehood, the environment, regions, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and Florida in the modern world.

On a regular basis, we will discuss "Current Events" and what is happening in our community. We are currently using McGraw Hill.

English/Language Arts

This is a year of transition to greater independence in reading and in daily life. Our goal is to provide balanced instruction in reading to endow learners with a firm foundation of skills and broad reading experiences in order to foster a lifelong love of reading.

Students receive systematic instruction in reading comprehension, fluency, vocabulary, writing, grammar, and spelling. The reading curriculum is enhanced through learning centers, literature circles, independent book reports, classroom presentations, and research using expository texts and various websites.

CLS activities will supplement learning through the use of technology. Teaching strategies are geared toward the wide range of learning styles and abilities of each student, allowing different groupings based on ability or personal preference; providing a variety of activities and projects in the classroom; using tiered activities that have optional extensions for readers to pursue topics in greater depth; and providing a range of materials at different levels of difficulty so that all students may be challenged, but not frustrated.

Students are assessed through both written and computerized tests, observable behaviors in reading, writing projects and essays, class discussions and activities, following a standard through a given rubric, and standardized DIBELS and ITBS testing.

Religion

Christ Our Life encourages faith knowledge that helps children articulate their Catholic faith.

Written by the Sisters of Notre Dame, the new 2016 edition of Christ Our Life fosters children's love of God and a rich knowledge of our Catholic faith so they can proudly go out into the world and proclaim it.

With its thorough presentation of the authentic teachings of the Catholic Church, its comprehensive approach, and its variety of teaching methods, Christ Our Life is the only program that is aligned with the Church's mission for a New Evangelization, the NCEA: IFG ACRE assessments, and the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

During the Religion course of study, the students are introduced to various aspects of the Catholic faith. These different areas include a review of the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, the Creed, prayer and liturgy. We will also incorporate the area of social justice and how we can relate it to our weekly lessons.

Science

ScienceFusion is a state-of-the-art science program designed for building inquiry and STEM skills and optimized for learning in the classroom or at home, on a laptop, tablet, or using a science textbook. The STEM program in ScienceFusion provides real-world challenges, hands-on activities, and Video-based Projects that develop important critical-thinking skills that will prepare students for success in the workplace and in life.

Areas of investigation include Life Science, specifically plants and animals. The unit on Ecology includes food chains and food webs, symbiosis, adaptation and survival, ecosystems, and succession. The human body unit explores the digestive, circulatory, and nervous systems as well as ways to keep the body systems healthy.

Intermediate

4th Grade Enrichment Programs

Technology

Intermediate grades follow the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards for Students).

These standards include: creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration, digital citizenship, critical thinking, problem solving and decision making, and technology operations and concepts.

Physical Education

Students are introduced to fitness components as they relate to movement activities.

Understanding that a healthy body is the result of physical activity is the underlying theme.

Notebooks and journal writing begin at this level. Some degree of competition is introduced.

Music

Singing: more use of dynamics and style interpretation. Begin two-part singing. Continue to learn songs for Mass.

Note reading: review lines and spaces of the treble clef in preparation for using recorders.

Theory: continue reading and writing music.

Rhythm: work on whole, half, and quarter note rhythms in preparation for recorder.

Recorders: begin the second half of the year with simple 5-7 note songs.

Performance: participation in the Christmas concert as well as a trip to the orchestra, opera and ballet

Spanish

Through Sonrisas Spanish, students acquire Spanish with a combination of music, lesson activities, games, authentic children's Spanish literature, art, and drama.

The Sonrisas Spanish curriculum is effective because it is pedagogically sound, and it engages students in a fun, natural, and age-appropriate way. Students practice language concepts with partner time and portfolio activities.

The end result is that students learn how to communicate effectively with lots of age-appropriate, practical Spanish.

Art

The Intermediate art program emphasizes skills and fundamentals. Students gain confidence in art production. They will use and understand art terminology and become familiar with artists and art movements.

Curriculum Scope

GRADE	RELIGION	MATH	READING	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	HANDWRITING	SPANISH
3rd Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Perfection Learning 2012/ HMH Workbook & HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	Universal Publishing 2008	Sonrisas
4th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Perfection Learning 2012/ HMH Workbook & HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	Universal Publishing 2008	Sonrisas
5th Grade	Loyola Press 2016 Christ Our Life	Go Math 2016	Scott Foresman 2013	Word Roots/Critical Thinking Company & Daily Grammar Practice DGP Publishing 2016, HMH Vocabulary for Achievement	Science Fusion/ HMH 2016	McGraw Hill 2015	No Books	Sonrisas

ALPHA

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement
Intermediate 3rd - 5th



Who

The program is open to students in grades 3-5 based on the following criteria: combined scores from a cognitive test such as the Cogat, IA scores from ELA and Math, and DIBELS.

What

Advanced Learning Program for Higher Achievement (ALPHA) is a project-based class designed to meet the needs of the gifted student by enhancing what they are learning in the general classroom.

A variety of teaching approaches will be used in order for each child to fully develop their intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capabilities.

Flexibility is an important characteristic of the ALPHA program which allows each child to be nurtured based on their specific needs.

Why

Giftedness means many things. It means different things to different people, to society, and to gifted kids themselves. The term gifted and talented when used in respect to students, means students who give evidence of high achievement capability.

These capabilities are in the areas of: intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields and who need services or activities that may not be provided by their general education classroom.

When

Each grade level meets once a week and will encompass the following topics: Power, Comparisons in rules and laws, Ecosystems, Environment, Cause and Effect, Citizenship, Economics, Social Action, Exploration, Culture, Ecology, Project Create, Settlement, Currency, and Measurement.

Course Aims & Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Develop concepts related to different relationships.
- Work independently and collaboratively on certain projects.
- Will actively participate in solving various problems using specific problem solving techniques.
- Will participate in novel studies with rich, complex language, open-endedness to create reflection, and helpfulness in building problem-solving skills.
- Will develop research skills using various types of technology and resources.

Specific Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in ALPHA, students will be able to:

- Provide examples, illustrations and salient features of different relationships.
- Form and revise questions for investigations.
- Use multiple sources to locate information for each question.
- Produce research projects and reports in effective formats using visuals to support the research.
- Develop analytical and interpretive skills in literature.
- Develop understanding of selected literary themes.
- Develop linguistic competency through vocabulary and language study.
- Develop skills in written and oral communication.
- Develop higher level thinking and reasoning skills in language arts.
- Develop research skills.

Communication

ALPHA students use the educational blog EDMODO to communicate directly to parents and interact with their teacher and each other.

Website: <http://www.emodo.com>

