



FOURTH GRADE

Classroom Overview

❖ General Information:

- Rancho Santa Margarita Christian School (RSMCS) Fourth Graders begin each day with pledges, prayers, and worship. Homeroom teachers instruct the students on the core subjects of math, science, language arts, social science, and Bible. The enrichment subjects of physical education, technology, music, Spanish, Art of the Master, Composer Countdown, and library are taught by teachers who specialize in those areas. All subjects are taught to meet or exceed California State Standards. RSMCS is fully accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). All teachers are Christians and have valid teaching credentials.

Spiritual & Social

❖ Bible:

- 45 minutes, 4 days per week
- Emphasis on understanding Christian worldview and its personal application while developing skills and implementing strategies to correctly understand the true meaning of the Bible.
- Emphasis on encouraging Bible reading, memorization, and application. Emphasis on Christian character traits. Students memorize and take weekly Bible memory verse tests.
- Textbook: *Deep Roots (online-based curriculum) New Testament Stories emphasis in 4th grade.*

❖ Chapel:

- Chapel each week with worship and message

❖ Social:

- Emphasis on Christian character development and biblical conflict resolution. Each month a different character trait is highlighted throughout the school and across the curriculum. Students are encouraged to incorporate this character trait into their daily lives and acknowledge it in others.
- Focus on introducing students to a structured classroom setting, encouraging good classroom and playground behavior, developing study habits, as well as instilling academic and social responsibilities that will serve students throughout their school years and beyond.

Academic

❖ Mathematics:

- 60-90 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on computing and solving mathematical problems and developing reasoning skills. Areas of instruction include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and money. Additionally, students learn critical thinking skills, and to solve problems involving measurement, graphs, basic algebraic functions, and geometry.
- Special Activities: ACSI Math Olympics, annual school celebration of Pi Day
- Textbook: *My Math 4 (McGraw-Hill)*

Academic Continued

❖ Language Arts & Reading:

- 90 minutes, 5 days per week
- Emphasis on reading, comprehending, and responding to historically and culturally significant works of literature, equipping students to analyze literature from a Biblical worldview.
- Emphasis on writing clear, coherent, and focused sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea while demonstrating a command of English grammar, sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and penmanship.
- Students listen and respond critically and appropriately to oral communication and deliver brief recitations and oral presentations around a coherent thesis statement.
- Development of written and oral responses to literature. Students read novels such as *Sign of the Beaver*, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Patty Reed's Doll*, and a variety of other books.
- Accelerated Reader Program
- Special Activities: ACSI Creative Writing Festival, ACSI Speech Meet, ACSI Spelling Bee, Anaheim Ducks S.C.O.R.E. (Reading is the Goal) and field trip to the Honda Center
- Textbooks: *Sadlier School Grammar Workbook* (Sadlier), *Write Reflections*

❖ Science & Health:

- 60 minutes, 2 days per week
- Emphasis on exploring and experiencing a variety of areas within the fields of physical science and health through reading, research, discussion, participation in group and individual projects, and through scientific experiments using the scientific method.
- Textbook: *Science 4* (BJU Press)

❖ History & Geography:

- 60 minutes, 3 days per week
- Emphasis on exploring the history and geography of California, from its earliest inhabitants of indigenous Native Americans through the settling of various peoples to contemporary times by using reading, research, discussion, and participation in individual and group projects.
- Special Activities: Overnight, two-day field trip to Sacramento and Coloma; field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano
- Curriculum Standards: *California Studies Weekly*

Enrichment

❖ Physical Education:

- Two times per week students dress in their school P.E. uniforms and participate in a variety of cardiovascular and strength building exercises. Throughout the year students learn athletic fundamentals and play the following: flag football, volleyball, basketball, hockey, pickleball, badminton, and handball. In addition, fitness testing is conducted at the beginning and end of the school year.

❖ Technology:

- All RSM Christian School students in fourth through eighth grade receive hands-on computer learning instruction from the classroom teacher as well as educational testing and assessments on a Chromebook through our one-to-one technology initiative. Emphasis for fourth grade is on becoming familiar with using computers as a tool. Technology is integrated across the fourth grade curriculum.
- Applications taught: Google Docs, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Chrome (Digital Citizenship)
- Other Applications used: IXL, Prodigy Math, MAP by NWEA, Freckle, Vocabulary A-Z, TypingClub, Google Classroom, Kahoot, Quizizz

Enrichment Continued

❖ **Music:**

- Emphasis on choral singing, breathing, vocal exercises and rhythm. The students will learn the value of worship as a part of their daily lives and will have opportunities to lead worship at different points throughout the school year.
- Special Activities: Perform at Grandparents Day, Christmas Chapel, and various other venues during the school year. There are two auditioned annual musical productions.

❖ **Spanish:**

- Emphasis on teaching students how to speak in Spanish, including how to say the alphabet and vowels, colors, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, words related to the family, Bible verses and prayers, as well as basic commands and phrases. Students are taught songs in Spanish that reinforce their learning.

❖ **Art:**

- A hands-on program that introduces students to the great artists and their work. Students engage in creative expression by painting their own masterpieces using the techniques of the masters.

❖ **Library:**

- Emphasis on teaching students how to use the library as a resource to find age-appropriate books that match their interests for pleasure reading, as well as helping students develop research skills for integrated, cross-curricular projects.