



## *The New Academy Curriculum Guide*

### *Fourth Grade*

Below is an overview of the textbooks and materials we have chosen for the upcoming school year for grade four. At The New Academy, we are committed to consistently reviewing and updating our curriculum with each passing academic year. As our school develops, we will continuously explore new products, ideas and teaching strategies that will engage our students and inspire a deeply rooted desire to learn!

#### **MATH**

##### **Saxon Math Home School Edition**

*A teaching method for incremental learning of mathematics, Saxon involves teaching a new mathematical concept every day and constantly reviewing old concepts. A Saxon lesson typically splits the day's work evenly between practicing the new material and reviewing old material. Its primary strength is in a steady review of all previous material, which is especially important to students who struggle with retaining the math they previously learned. The home school edition is slightly more in depth with strategies for one on one instruction of new concepts.*

#### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

##### **Easy Grammar**

*Easy Grammar texts use the prepositional approach combined with effective strategies designed for daily review of grammar concepts. This consistent curriculum aids students to understand grammar, a tool for speaking and writing properly. Students complete daily exercises as they review grammar concepts.*

##### **Harcourt Spelling/Phonics**

*Harcourt Brace Spelling develops communication skills with research-based instructional techniques, phonetic decoding, writing development, integrated language arts, and special student reference features.*

##### **New Academy Writing Program/The New Academy Times**

*Our curriculum coordinator has developed a writing program specifically for our home school environment. Students will have fun and humorous writing themes each month that cover all genres of elementary writing standards. Starting with an introduction to*

*proper sentence and paragraph structure, the styles covered include descriptive, informative, how-to/instructional, persuasive, biography, autobiography, poetry, story writing and several 5-paragraph essays. In addition, our third through fifth grade students will collaborate each month to publish a school newspaper. Each fifth grade student will be responsible for submitting one article per month to the editor.*

## **LITERATURE**

### **Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary**

*This well-known vocabulary curriculum allows students to complete systematic and explicit vocabulary instruction. Fourth grade students begin in Level ORANGE vocabulary, which is on or above appropriate grade level words and expressions. Our curriculum coordinator has developed several unique games and methods of study for each new unit. Children are challenged to learn all aspects of word usage – synonyms, antonyms, definitions and sentence use – by competing in weekly Vocabulary Jeopardy games, vocabulary bingo, vocabulary charades and Pictionary.*

### **Newbery Book Club**

*Upper elementary students' reading assignments will be based on a monthly book club membership. Each month, children will experience classic and modern works from the American Library Association's list of Newbery Medal Winners. Students will read through their selections in class and at home. Activities, discussions, reports and comprehension quizzes will accompany each book. Through monthly reading achievements, children will become familiar with the elements and themes of distinguished children's literature.*

### **Read & Write Around the World/Travel Journals**

*Also developed specifically for our school, students will take a fictional trip (complete with passport!) to various landmarks around the U.S.A. and around the world! Students travel virtually to famous landmarks by way of our interactive SmartBoard screens. This curriculum promotes the reading-writing connection. Students will study interesting facts when they arrive at their destination. They will also record their account of the trip in their journals, write about climate, terrain, the characters and settings throughout history and subcultures in the places they read about.*

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Harcourt Social Studies**

*Harcourt Social Studies takes students on a journey through time and place. It's packed with reading support tools, such as charts, graphs, and timelines that help students better grasp the concepts. Books are engaging, colorful and packed with appealing facts and pictures that capture students' attention and interest.*

## **SCIENCE**

### **Harcourt Science**

*Harcourt Science textbooks create a world of science discovery. With an activity and experiment at the beginning of each lesson, the books inspire interest and promote curiosity. The program acknowledges scientific discoveries from all over the world, making the curriculum multicultural. The material presented focuses on reaching students with various learning styles. The books have tons of pictures that are helpful for students in the lower primary grades that might have difficulty reading and following directions.*

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

### **Mavis Beacon Typing Software**

*A leader in typing instruction for over 25 years, upper elementary students will begin to learn proper typing techniques. As a technologically advanced school, students as early as elementary school will complete most of their assignments on their personal laptop, netbook or iPad. For this reason, it is important to learn appropriate and efficient typing techniques.*

### **Technology Resources**

*Students will have daily access to the newest instructional technology. This will include Smartboard programs and lessons, personal net books, laptops , iMacs and iPads. With a computer for every student, upper elementary students will be completing much of their assignments online, as the New Academy moves toward a green and paperless classroom!*

### **Guest Speakers**

*To connect real life application to many of the concepts studied within school, the elementary school will be welcoming one guest speaker each month to speak with the Students at The New Academy!*

### **Field Trips**

*To further encourage and inspire learning, New Academy students will participate in many field trips to take students outside the classroom where they will experience science, social studies, literature, and fine arts firsthand.*

### **Fun Cards**

*The Fun Card is an original classroom management and character education system developed by our curriculum coordinator. Each student at The New Academy will carry a 'Fun Card' with them through out the week, which highlights various behavior standards (i.e. respect teachers and friends, use your manners, play fair, etc). Students earn points for appropriate behavior through out the week and are given the opportunity to earn a 'Fun Friday' period at the end of the week.*