



Elementary Curriculum

FIRST GRADE (1st)

The first grade team focuses on delivering individualized curriculum through both language arts and math. During the primary years, it is imperative to build a strong foundation with phonics and phonemic awareness while also encouraging a love for reading and writing. Lutz Preparatory first graders learn and grow through inquiry-based instruction, projects, and Leader In Me. Teachers embed the lessons of the 7 habits of Leader In Me in the daily curriculum. We are proud to be a Lighthouse School. The instruction is enriched with technology programs, visual aids, and hands-on experimental activities. Overall, instruction is driven with the latest research, as well as the individual needs of all of the students that enter our classroom.

Field Trips

Cracker Country, Gem Mining, Jack Hartman, Color Wheel Painting

Projects

Biography Reports, Pumpkin Character Report, Habitat dioramas, Nonfiction Animal Report



Fourth Grade

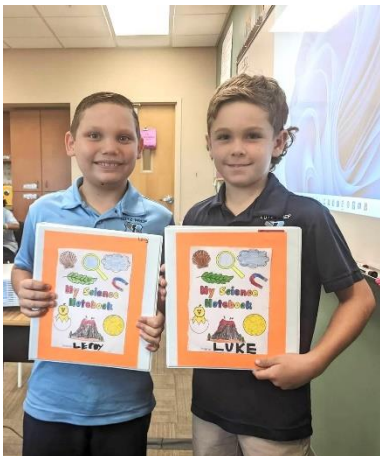
Welcome to fourth grade! Fourth grade is an important school year in our students' elementary careers. Not only are our fourth graders mastering academic skills through our Florida B.E.S.T Standards but also important organizational and social skills that they will carry with them throughout their education.

In reading, students continue to grow their comprehension skills by using a variety of strategies. Reading instruction is focused on the idea of *Reading to Learn, versus Learning to Read*. We work hard to comprehend both explicit and implicit information. The students also expand their vocabulary knowledge with weekly lessons. In addition, their reading skills are integrated with their development as writers. Students will develop the skills to analyze text and support their thinking using evidence.

In writing, the students continue to deepen their development of the writing process as well as begin to master their cursive writing skills. Through expository, narrative, and argumentative essays our students will become experts in persuading, informing, and entertaining their readers through their writing.

In math, students continue to deepen their knowledge of place value, multiplication and division, fractions, area and perimeter. Students will learn about factors and multiples, decimals, and how to measure and draw angles.

In science, students will explore Earth's place in space, learn about different types of rocks and the rock cycle, enlarge their knowledge of



matter, energy, and forces. In the life science unit, students will discover different types of life cycles, reproduction, and how organisms change and adapt to their environment. Students are engaged during science with hands-on lessons during every unit, for example during designing a safety egg drop device or when exploring types of rocks.

Leader in Me

Growing Future Leaders in Fourth Grade

Every morning, students begin their day with learning, discussing, or applying their learning to develop their inner leaders. Here are some meaningful activities our fourth graders participate in and help lead:

- To put their leadership to the test, our students participate in **student-led clubs** every month. These clubs are truly student-driven, produce great creativity, and build teamwork. Each student has their own genius and we love to share that with others. Some play sports, others may enjoy baking, a few may be able to teach the class origami, the geniuses are endless!
- On Wednesdays, all students participate in **Genius Wednesday**. We enjoy taking the opportunity to spotlight each of our students so that we can celebrate their genius. Families share candid photos and videos of the students showcasing their genius (different talents they can help others with extracurricular activities).
- **Leadership Notebooks:** Our 4th graders keep track of their progress and academic achievements by using a Leadership Notebook. This notebook contains personal and academic WIGS (Wildly Important Goals) that the students refer to frequently to keep them on target and to make them more involved in their own learning. These notebooks also hold testing data as well as personal mission statements and work they are proud of.



FIFTH GRADE (5th)

JA Biztown/Economics/Social Studies: Prior to visiting JA BizTown, students engage in a comprehensive classroom curriculum that leads students through the study of business principles, career exploration, banking procedures, business decisions and economic terms. The curriculum immerses students into the exciting and challenging free enterprise system as well as emphasizing the importance of ethical business practices, teamwork and making sound business decisions, skills, knowledge and education.

Dressed in business attire and well prepared for their jobs, confident 5th graders get off the bus and rush to tackle the tasks of the day at JA BizTown. After a short town meeting, the new employees try out what they have learned in the classroom for the day in their business.



25 Book Challenge: The 25 Book Challenge is a personal challenge for each student, not a contest or competition between students or classes. Our goal is to promote a love for reading for all students. This challenge inspires student to read as well as share what they have read to other students. It creates a literature rich classroom. It is great to see students expanding their reading preferences to meet the genre requirements, and the pride they felt each time they marked down another completed book. It's amazing how a common goal can inspire and motivate!

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program: The Sunshine State Young Readers Program is a statewide reading motivational program established for students. This unique program allows the opportunity for students to engage in novels that are a variety of levels centered around diverse topics. Throughout the year, students can earn different incentives for completing the reading of the books and writing a comprehensive summary. Hopefully the participation in this program challenges them to succeed and build their love for reading.

Junior Great Books: Shared Inquiry is a method of teaching and learning that enables our students to explore the ideas, meaning, and information found in everything they read. It centers on interpretive questions that have more than one plausible answer and can lead to engaging and insightful conversations about the text. Our students further their critical thinking, communication and literacy skills through shared inquiry.

SMATHing it in 5th Grade: In the 5th grade Science classroom, we focus on hands on scientific inquiry. Highlights of the year include learning about space, weather, and the Human body. The 5th grade Math curriculum uses the B.E.S.T standards for Math to drive our daily instruction using a gradual release of responsibility model. Our curriculum is structured in a logical progression of focused topics with rigor throughout the content and instruction. Students are given the opportunity to explore and solidify their understanding, and then to apply and transfer



that learning to problem solving and real-world situations. We encourage and develop our students' mathematical mindsets. When students develop proficiency in the Mathematical Thinking and Reasoning Standards, they become mathematical thinkers! They are able to learn and ask why, as well as reason and communicate with others on their learning.



Leader In ME: Fifth graders get the opportunity to let their genius shine through the participation of grade level leadership clubs. Students use this engaging club time to build their leadership skills and synergize with their peers.

Service Projects: Our fifth graders are given the unique opportunity to complete service projects throughout the school year. Participating in service projects allows our students the chance to become active members in our school and community. The projects promote compassion and kindness for all. Students are able to use their leadership skills in order to leave a lasting impact on others. Some of the service projects that our 5th graders participate in are making upcycled toys for a local animal shelter, a can food drive benefitting Metropolitan Ministries, campus clean-up day, writing letters of gratitude to a staff member at our school, and creating holiday cards delivered to local nursing homes.

