



# FREEDOM PROJECT ACADEMY

## Course Syllabus

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Course Description:

FPA 4th Grade is a stimulating grade level for students as it continues to build on previously learned concepts and skills, challenging students to reach their highest potential through active engagement. The history of the modern age is examined, from the early 1800s to the late 1990s, giving students a general overview of major historic events and people during this time period. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians and dinosaurs, along with many suborders of each animal type are covered in science. Students continue to improve their cursive handwriting skills by focusing on proper character alignment, shape, slant and neatness. Language arts abilities continue to be built up through the study of parts of speech, good sentence and paragraph structure, as well as learning various stylistic techniques. Exposure to classics of literature help develop rich vocabulary and comprehension. Rounding out the fourth grade curriculum is the study of Latin as used in both religious and scientific settings with emphasis given to English derivatives and well-known prayers and songs.

### Arithmetic:

Saxon introduces concepts in an incremental, spiral method. Once concepts are introduced, students will continue to encounter these skills throughout the curriculum with a more developed approach to concepts in later lessons. Over time, students gain mastery through this continued exposure to concepts.

### Reading:

Students will gain an extensive vocabulary through word study and reading these classic novels. Discussions of each chapter give students a deeper understanding of characters, settings, plot, conflict, resolution, and themes. McGuffey's reader gives students practice in oral reading helping to improve fluency in this area.

### English:

Students continue to build on previously learned concepts and skills. Oral communication is practiced by giving reports and telling stories. Identification and proper use of the various parts of speech such as nouns and verbs are focused on. Sentence structure and sentence diagramming as well as paragraph development are taught.

### Spelling:

Students complete exercises for twelve new words and four review words each week. Each lesson's focus is on the phonetic sounds and letters common in each word list, learning the meaning(s) of each word, along with building onto existing words.

## Latin:

Students will learn common Latin sayings along with weekly vocabulary lists which give students a foundation for learning English and foreign languages. Practice in conjugating verbs and declining nouns is practiced throughout the curriculum. A study in English derivatives gives students a strong basis in the English language.

## Handwriting:

Students will learn proper cursive letter formation and have an opportunity to practice those letters while writing verses from Scripture.

## Writing:

Students begin by reading a source text, making notes and outlining. They then move to writing from notes taken. Retelling narrative stories and summarizing references follows. Students also learn to write stories using a picture prompt. Brainstorming, asking questions and then writing their own story from an outline completes this program.

## History:

Students will read the exciting stories of modern times while having an opportunity to complete projects along with a timeline to help reinforce what they are learning. Class time will consist of discussion of the stories along with engaging activities.

## Science:

Students keep a record of where each animal is found on a map and learn to identify animal tracks. They also enjoy many hands-on projects and experiments throughout the course. Students will participate in a year-long project creating their own zoo to demonstrate knowledge of animal habitats.

## Text/Required Materials:

*McGuffey's Fourth Eclectic Reader (free access)*

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe Student Guide*

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe Book*

*Heidi Student Guide*

*Heidi Book*

*Lassie, Come Home Student Guide*

*Lassie, Come Home Book*

*Rod & Staff Grade 4 Spelling Workbook*

*A Reason for Handwriting Level D Student*

*Rod & Staff Building with Diligence Textbook*

*Rod & Staff Building with Diligence Worksheets*

*Rod & Staff Building with Diligence Tests*

*Saxon 5/4 Text 1st Edition (optional)*

*Apologia Exploring Creation with Zoology 3: Land Animals of the 6th Day Student Text*

*Zoology 3 Notebooking Journal*

*Story of the World Volume 4 (Revised 2021)*

*Story of the World Volume 4 Activity Book (Revised 2021)*

*Latina Christiana 1 Student 4th Edition*

### *Grades:*

Assignments turned into Canvas will be graded as well as any quizzes and tests that are completed in Canvas. There will also be reading and math evaluations that will be conducted in class by the teacher.

### *Attendance/Participation:*

Students are expected to attend class Monday-Thursday. They will be encouraged to participate and engage during class time. Participation (or lack thereof) affects each student's grade.

### *Expectations/Guidelines:*

Assignment Sheets will be posted by Sunday evening for the following week. They will include all assignments (Monday-Friday) that need to be complete for each subject for that week.

Assignments in black are to be completed at home and checked by a parent. Assignments in red must be scanned and uploaded into Canvas. Assignments in blue are completed online in the student's Canvas account. All assignments for the week are due on Friday by 10:59 p.m. CT.

The administration and teachers of FreedomProject Academy are steadfast in our efforts to provide an excellent education for our students. This requires vigilance as practices and trends promoting mediocrity and low standards abound in government schools and private schools of all kinds.

Excellence in education begins with an evaluation of the student's independently completed work. The recent trend of resubmitting assignments after receiving teacher feedback leads to better grades but is not an accurate evaluation of a student's independent skill level. This practice stems from Common Core/ No Child Left Behind/Outcome-Based Education and puts the emphasis on grades (outcome). An excellent education is focused on learning and the student's growth not just outcome.

Our grading policy is designed to promote learning and student growth. For clarity, once an assignment is submitted, no resubmission will be accepted. Much effort is taken to grade and provide feedback. It is the parent's responsibility to review graded assignments with the child for the purpose of learning from mistakes. This permits the parent and teacher to direct the growth of each uniquely individual child with accurate knowledge.