

*Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!*

# St. Rocco School

**A ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

## *What Your Child Learns*



### A Parent's Guide to the *Grade Four Curriculum*

**CHRIST** is the reason for this school.  
*~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~*

A Parent's Guide to the  
***Grade Four Curriculum***

*At St. Rocco School, we promote a Catholic Education providing a rich spiritual, academic, and social development of each child. We do this through a stimulating environment and a broad based and balanced core standard curriculum with a comprehensive curriculum for each subject area in every grade level. Our curriculum continuously undergoes evaluation and updating.*

*Please note that these curriculum guides provide only an overview of what your child will be learning and that the actual written curriculum is much more comprehensive.*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ is the foundation of the St. Rocco School Community.

We are dedicated to creating a safe environment that instills Catholic values and nourishes the development and growth of the whole person.

We are committed to excellence in academic standards that prepare students to reach their full potential and meet the global challenges of the world.

**PHILOSOPHY**

St. Rocco School is a Catholic elementary school within the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island. The foundation of the philosophy of St. Rocco School is the person of Jesus Christ. Inspired by Him and sustained by the love of the Sacred Heart, we aim at providing quality education by assisting the child's spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral, and aesthetic development in order that each child acquire a sense of responsibility toward God, himself, and others. The purpose of the school is to expose the students to a Christian way of life based on the Gospels and the democratic principles of freedom, equality, and respect for the rights of the individual.

The educational climate of our school fosters these values by educating our students to search for truth and the development of their total personality by integrating their faith into every area of living. "This integrating of religious truths and values with life distinguishes the Catholic school from other schools..." ("To Teach as Jesus Did"). Our aim is to make clear the message of salvation to all students and to make our school a model of service in the community.

**St. Rocco School is accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges.**

*What Your Child Learns*  
**GRADE FOUR CURRICULUM**  
**Religion**

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Students will become aware that God made and loves us. They will appreciate themselves as gifts of God. They will examine what Catholics believe, how Catholics celebrate, live, and pray. As part of the Religion Program, the Circle of Grace Program will concentrate on helping students understand safe and unsafe situations.

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A few of the objectives to be covered are:

- ♥ Understand that the church is a light to the world, as members of the church, we learn from others and teach others the way to the reign of God, the Church is called to be a community, and the Eucharistic celebration (Mass) on Holy Thursday reminds us of the Last Supper.
- ♥ Recognize that in the Sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation, the church celebrates that we receive God's grace and forgiveness, and that Christian life is a journey of conversion and that the Eucharist is the source and strength of the Catholic community and is essential to life and mission of the Catholic Church.
- ♥ Appreciate that through Baptism, Jesus calls us to a life of service, welcoming and helping others, especially those in need.
- ♥ Understand that the corporal and spiritual works of mercy are ways of showing our love for Jesus who cares for the poor.
- ♥ Understand that the Ten Commandments teach us to love God and others and that sin is choosing to turn from God which harms our relationship with Him, ourselves and others.
- ♥ Understand that good rules make families work.
- ♥ Understand that God created the human with many systems and a body and soul.
- ♥ Acknowledge that life begins at conception which is the union of a husband's cell with a wife's cell and the newly formed cell contains the complete plan for the new human. The cells divide until all the body systems have developed and the human being grows inside the mother.
- ♥ Understand internet safety
- ♥ Understand that God asks us to have respect for ourselves and others

**Health**

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The students will study a variety of topics relating to personal and mental health, nutrition and fitness, harmful substances, human growth, disease and injury prevention, the importance of safety and community resources, and strategies for conflict resolution and stress management:

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A few of the objectives are listed below:

- ♥ Identify the positive and negative influences of peers.
- ♥ Demonstrate ability to set personal goals.
- ♥ Demonstrate responsibility for personal hygiene.
- ♥ Recognize the value and benefits of being active and physically fit.
- ♥ Identify major body organs.
- ♥ Plan and evaluate a balanced diet.
- ♥ Understand chemical addiction and define the dangers of using harmful substances.
- ♥ Respect gender differences and similarities.
- ♥ Identify ways in which diseases are transmitted.
- ♥ Recognize symptoms of illness that may indicate a more serious disease.
- ♥ Demonstrate the rules for bike, vehicle, personal, and water safety.
- ♥ Understand the precautions for handling body fluids.
- ♥ Demonstrate knowledge of skills and attitudes that are useful for coping with being home alone.
- ♥ Demonstrate appropriate responses to conflict situations.
- ♥ Design a personal plan for resolving conflicts.
- ♥ Identify consequences in making decisions.
- ♥ Demonstrate socially acceptable habits and healthy attitudes toward success and disappointments.

# Math

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Students will understand numbers and ways of representing numbers. They will demonstrate an understanding of classification, patterning and sequence. Students will recognize ways to measure objects, time, and money. Students will begin to demonstrate an understanding of data collection, display, and interpretation.

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A few of the objectives are listed below:

- ♥ Estimate sums, differences, products, and quotients.
- ♥ Demonstrate and explain problem solving strategies.
- ♥ Multiply with 0 through 10.
- ♥ Divide with 0 through 10.
- ♥ Use comparing strategies – Guess and Test and Drawing a Picture.
- ♥ Multiply and divide with 1, 2, and 3 digit numbers.
- ♥ Look for a pattern to find the rule.
- ♥ Identify patterns and find missing information in a given pattern.
- ♥ Draw and identify lines, line segments, angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals.
- ♥ Define and solve for perimeter, area, mass, weight, and volume.
- ♥ Understand, name, and write fractions.
- ♥ Add and subtract fractions with like denominators.
- ♥ Use and measure with customary linear measurement.
- ♥ Calculate elapsed time.
- ♥ Make bar graphs and pictographs.
- ♥ Draw conclusions from data.
- ♥ Understand the concept of probability.

## Language Arts

### Listening

- ♥ Identify speaker's purpose.
- ♥ Distinguish between main idea and supporting ideas in an oral message.
- ♥ Identify words that communicate a speaker's feelings and point of view.
- ♥ Interpret figurative language.

### Speaking

- ♥ State a complete sentence and/or thought orally.
- ♥ Respond orally to questions from teachers and peers.
- ♥ Speak expressively by varying volume, rate, and intonation.
- ♥ Recite memorized passages with reasonable accuracy and expression.

### Reading

#### Literal Comprehension

- ♥ Ask questions of themselves and the authors they encounter in the texts they read.
- ♥ Draw the text together to identify explicitly stated main ideas.
- ♥ Use information from text to paraphrase appropriate information.

#### Inferential Comprehension

- ♥ Search for connections between what they know and the new information they encounter in the text they read.
- ♥ Confirm/reject predictions throughout text using supporting evidence.
- ♥ Distinguish differences between facts, opinions, and inferences.
- ♥ Recognize author's purpose.

#### Critical/Evaluative Thinking

- ♥ Evaluate different points of view.
- ♥ Interpret a character's physical description, dialogue, inner thoughts/feelings, actions and the reactions of other characters to develop a character map.
- ♥ Make and support judgments that are warranted and reasonable.
- ♥ Connect ideas/themes across text.

## Fluency

### Word Recognition (Vocabulary)

- ♥ Supply missing words in context (cloze).
- ♥ Select from multiple definitions the most appropriate contextual meaning for a word.
- ♥ Understand meaning changes caused by the use of prefixes and suffixes.
- ♥ Complete simple analogies.

### Phonetic Analysis

- ♥ Apply phonics rules to decode unknown words.
- ♥ Use syllabication rules to decode unknown words.

### Structural Analysis

- ♥ Utilize word study skills such as:
  - suffixes and prefixes
  - homonyms, synonyms, antonyms
  - context clues
  - comparative and superlative endings

## Study/Organizational Skills

- ♥ Follow multiple written directions.
- ♥ Use study techniques such as creating flashcards, semantic maps/webs.
- ♥ Use skimming and scanning to locate information.
- ♥ Formulate questions to clarify any misunderstandings.

## Writing

### Prewriting

- ♥ Choose from a variety of graphic organizers to structure ideas.
- ♥ Select and narrow a topic for a particular purpose/audience.
- ♥ Select first or third person point of view appropriate to the assignment.

### Drafting

- ♥ Use newly acquired vocabulary words in writing.
- ♥ Write in a consistent voice.
- ♥ Compose and send correspondence such as a friendly, business, thank you letters that express information or requests clearly.

### Revising

- ♥ Incorporate feedback into revisions.
- ♥ Respond constructively to other's writing.
- ♥ Improve sentences with more vivid language.
- ♥ Use a thesaurus to determine the best synonym in replacing dull words.

### Editing/Mechanics

- ♥ Correct sentence fragments, run-on sentences, and sentence syntax errors.
- ♥ Properly punctuate dialogue using quotation marks.

### Publishing

- ♥ Publish written work in a variety of ways (book, drama, greeting cards, letters, oral report, web page, etc.).
- ♥ Share and display writing in classroom, school, and with parents.
- ♥ Enjoy the published writing of classmates.

## Social Studies

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The United States Regions is a study of regional geography and economics of the New England, Middle Atlantic, Southeast, North Central, South West, Mountain West and Pacific West Regions in an age appropriate fashion. This focus includes emphasis on the State of Rhode Island, now and long ago, and historical highlights in the regions, as they are studied.

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# Science

## Specific areas to be covered

### Life Science

Characteristics of living things  
Plant and animal groups  
Interrelation of plants and animals  
Use of plants and animals  
Parts of plants  
Senses

### Physical Science

Production, use and conservation of energy  
Matter  
The six basic machines

### Earth Science

Weather  
Rocks  
Minerals

## Physical Education

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All students at St. Rocco School have a balanced Physical Education program that gives them opportunities for vigorous activity, teaches skills, and stresses the importance of life-long fitness. Our Physical Education program reinforces our Christian values and social skills by providing opportunities for collaboration and good sportsmanship. Fourth grade students have the opportunities to work on skills individually, with a partner, in a small group and as part of a team. The emphasis at this level is on skill development and lead-up skills for a variety of games and sports. The ability to understand rules and develop game strategies becomes more important. The students also participate in the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test each spring. While students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities, games and sports, the emphasis remains on cooperation and participation.

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## Art

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Each student will be provided with an introduction to artists (their works, their techniques, their mediums, their struggles, and their perseverance's) in an environment that encourages self-discovery and self-expression through artistic experimentation.

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**THEME: Artifacts -- Introduction to design fundamentals**

### Focus of Lessons:

- ♥ A study of line
- ♥ A study of shape
- ♥ A study of movement
- ♥ A study of color
- ♥ A study of pattern
- ♥ A study of size
- ♥ A study of balance
- ♥ A study of value/ self-portrait
- ♥ A study of harmony
- ♥ Seasonal projects/art work

## Music

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All students in Grades 1 through 8 have general music once each week. The general music program introduces students to the following basic musical concepts: rhythm, melody, harmony, tone color, form, and expression. Students experience these concepts through singing, moving, and listening and apply them through performing and creating, both in the classroom and in liturgical settings throughout the school year.

Students explore various styles of music and recognize music from different historical periods. Music instruction is complemented by music learning software for Kindergarten through Grade Eight.

Our adopted music curriculum is *Making Music*, published by Silver-Burdett/Ginn, supplemented by *Music Alive*, a monthly magazine published by Cherry Lane for the Middle School.

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## Spanish

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During this academic year Spanish will be offered in grade four. Students will build upon the lessons that were introduced in grade 3 expanding in the following areas: grammar, spelling, pronunciation, and vocabulary. To fully appreciate the language, aspects of Spain's culture will be taught.

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## Technology

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The focus will be to complete projects coordinated with our curriculum using Microsoft Word, Excel, and Power Point. Students will use various age-appropriate websites to do research. The interactive whiteboard in the classroom to enhance daily lessons.

Students will continue to work on their typing, finger position, accuracy and speed on the keyboard. Technology is integrated into daily activities through the use of iPads and interactive instruction with the use of the “whiteboard” (Mimio).

Instructional Software Use to enhance daily lessons.

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