

GRACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
Curriculum Development  
COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course: Writing

Grade: 4th

Philosophy Statement: God the Creator is the Supreme Communicator. He spoke the sun, moon, and stars into existence. In the past He spoke to mankind, either directly, or, more often, through His chosen prophets. As He inspired Moses to write the Ten Commandments on tables of stone, so God also inspired men to write the Bible, the Word of God, which reveals to mankind God's most complete communication to us, His creatures, through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, His Son. By His divine mercy and grace, God has granted mankind the incredible gift of communication, allowing us to listen and hear, speak, write, and read – to communicate with each other. Accordingly, our instruction in the Language Arts should reflect our recognition of the patterns, principles, creativity, and incredible beauty of His communication to us, and to offer God the glory due Him as our Creator and Lord through effective, clear, and creative communication with each other.

Course Objective: The students will classify, critique, and analyze specific characteristics of narrative and instructional writing. They will identify and recall the various elements of paragraphs, sentences and phrases. They will memorize prepositions and helping verbs, identify and employ correct punctuation and word usage, and memorize, alphabetize, and recite spelling words. They will employ all these skills to write exceptional phrases, complete sentences, and paragraphs in cursive.

Textbooks:

- Step Up to Writing, Sopris West, Level One, 1999.
- Easy Grammar: Grades 3 and 4, Wanda Phillips; ISHA Enterprises, Inc., 1998.

Materials:

- Author created worksheets.
- Step Up to Writing “Handy Pages” Level 1.
- Step Up to Writing “Class Reproducibles,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Teacher-made Spelling Lists.

Time Allotment: Sixty minutes per day, four-five days per week.

### Course Content:

- Unit 1: Organized Expository Paragraphs: Complete sentences and correct form of a paragraph using prepositions and correct spelling.
- Unit 2: Main Idea, Details, and Supporting Ideas: How various parts of a paragraph work together using nouns and correct spelling.
- Unit 3: Transitions and Conclusions: Focusing on how these parts support the topic sentence using a variety of starter words, including the correct verb usage and spelling.
- Unit 4: Editing Writing: peer and self editing to identify and correct all previously studied elements of writing; introduction to adverbs.

### Assessments:

- Book Reports.
- Written Reports.
- Class work.
- Homework (Worksheets).
- Unit Tests.
- Quizzes.

### Additional Activities:

- Oral Report Reading.
- Peer Editing.
- Games.
- Grammar Songs.