

Columbia Heights Academy ~ The Keely Family Homeschool Curriculum Notes: Grade 4 (age 8±)

Our Plan: [Well-Trained Mind](#) classical education, taught secularly with strong math/science component. Spend at least 5 hours per day 6 days per week year round on studies including extra curricular activities. Keep lessons short and meaningful. Stay flexible and take advantage of our time together, field trips, travels, and natural learning moments.

Curriculum Guides: Besides following the WTM suggestions, we referred to [Rebecca Rupp's Home Learning Year by Year](#), [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade 4](#), and [What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know: Fundamentals of a Good Third-Grade Education \(The Core Knowledge Series\)](#) to be sure we were covering all that we should.

- Weekly learning poster:
 - A poem to memorize and recite by weeks end (w/ discussion questions)
 - A quote from a famous or influential historic female (from [HerStory](#); w/ discussion questions)
 - A list from history or a famous speech

- Daily schedule: (5+ hours per day 6 days per week)
 - MATH ~ 5 x 75 mins / wk
 - [Right Start Math D->E](#) with manipulatives
 - [Saxon Math 5/4](#) (parts only, more to be sure we remember old stuff)
 - [Singapore Math's Challenging Word Problems 4](#)
 - [Right Start Math card games](#) plus other strategy/thinking games

 - LOGIC & CRITICAL THINKING ~ 30 mins / wk
 - [Primary Grade Challenge Math \(level "Einstein" activities\)](#),
 - [Dell Magazine's Math & Logic Puzzles](#)
 - Play logic games including [WFF-n-Proof](#) and [Mastermind](#)

 - SCIENCE (PHYSICS) ~ 3 x 45 mins / wk
 - [Friedhoffer's Scientific Magic Series \(6 bks\)](#)
 - [Thames & Kosmos Physics Workshop](#) <-- really cool kit!
 - Additional lessons and hands-on experiments and activities from:
 - * [Physics Experiments for Children](#)
 - * [Janice VanCleave's Physics for Every Kid](#)
 - * [MathScienceNucleus.org \(Physics and Technology Units K-6\)](#)
 - * [Physics4Kids.com](#)
 - * Play [The Way Things Work Game](#)

 - GENERAL SCIENCE:
 - Supplemental read-alouds and activities:
 - * [Marvels of Science: 50 Fascinating 5-Minute Reads](#)
 - * Joy Hakim's [The Story of Science](#)

Video Series: [Burke's Connections](#) and [BBC/Attenborough's Planet Earth](#)
Plus: science encyclopedias, science webs, library books/videos

- HISTORY ~ THE RENAISSANCE & MODERN ERA ~ 2 x 45 mins / wk
[Gombrich's A Little History of the World](#) (audio version, concurrently reviewing SOTW 1-3)
[Learning Through History Magazine](#) for unit studies and supplemental activities
Next move to:
[Story of the World book 4](#) (cover 1-2 chapters/wk; narration for each section)
[SOTW 4 - Activity book 4](#) (map, colouring page, and one activity/craft project per chapter)
Concurrent with:
[A History of US](#) (see [Paula's correlation chart](#))
Plus: history encyclopedias, history webs, library books/videos

SOCIAL STUDIES & CIVICS ~ 30 mins / wk
Various books (finishing the [Syl Sobel series](#) and moving to [Constitution Translated for Kids](#) including) and websites (including several kids news blogs and podcasts).

GEOGRAPHY ~ 4 x 5 mins / wk + 45 mins / wk for activities (mapping, research, art)
10-week unit study with Jules Verne's [Around the World in 80 Days](#)

Next move to:

[Trail Guide to United States Geography](#) with [Student Notebook](#)

Supplements:

- * [The Ultimate Geography and Timeline Guide](#)
- * [Rand McNally Intermediate Geography And Map Activities](#)

- LANGUAGE ARTS:

GRAMMAR ~ 6 x 30 mins / wk
[Growing with Grammar 4->5](#)

VOCABULARY ~ 6 x 15 mins / wk
[Wordly Wise 3000 book 4->5](#)

Plus: research using dictionary, encyclopedia, thesaurus, library, or internet

SPELLING ~ 6 x 10 mins / wk

[Sequential Spelling 4](#) with a written test on 10 words after every 4 lessons

PENMANSHIP ~ 6 x 10 mins / wk

Finish [Handwriting Without Tears - Cursive Success](#)

Copywork - passages from great books of literature

WRITING ~ 2-3 hours / wk

[Writing Strands 4](#) (2 days / wk)

Dictation - passages from great books of literature (2 days / wk)

Narration (3 days / wk, one from history, one from science, one from assn'd book reading)

Discuss writing - own and professional (once / wk)
Write a letter, short story, or book report (one / wk)

MEMORY WORK ~ 6 x 10 mins / wk

Memorize poems, quotations, math facts, Latin vocab, grammar defs, etc. Weekly recitation.

Memory work included: Gettysburg Address, U.S. Presidents, U.S. states + capitals, ...

- FOREIGN LANGUAGE ~ 6 x 30 mins / wk

[Lively Latin I](#) (4 days/wk) including online games for vocab practice

Play [Rummy Roots game](#) (1 day / wk)

Continue Sign Language (1 day / wk; 12 new signs/wk in [Signing](#) + flash cards)

- FINE ARTS:

MUSIC ~ 5 x 20 mins / wk

Instrument - piano: [Hal Leonard's Piano Lessons 2-3](#) and [HL's Piano Theory 2-3](#)

Theory: [Usborne's Music Theory for Beginners](#) and [The Music Pack](#)

THEATER ARTS ~ ½-1 hr / wk

* [On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids](#) for various activities including puppetry, acting games, improv, back-stage skills, play writing.

* Shakespeare: Shakespeare Can Be Fun series, The Children's Shakespeare, Bellerphon Shakespeare Colouring Book, Shakespeare Treasure Chest

ART ~ 1½-2 hrs / wk

[Drawing with Children](#) and [Handbook of Nature Study](#)

Craft from history's [SOTW 4 activity book](#) or geography's [Geography Through Art](#)

Art skill: [Art Fun](#) plus 4H Clover Crafters group

Art appreciation: study [famous art works](#), play [FreeRice's Famous Paintings](#), visit museums

- COMPUTER ~ 3 x 30 mins / wk

* [Touch typing](#)

* Skills: basic windows skills, file management, word processing

* Independent time on the computer:

ed games/activities, virtual field trips, email, twitter, webcam w/ cousin, and more.

- READING / LITERATURE:

INDEPENDENT READING ~ 6 x 60 mins / wk

"Assigned reading" great books of literature, library books (bios, history, STEM topics, etc.)

Books/series read this year included: [Dear America series](#), [Dear Canada series](#), ...

"Fun reading" @ 5-8 grade level

Books/series read this year included: The Black Stallion, Ballet Shoes, Swiss Family Robinson, ...

READ ALOUD BY PARENT ~ 6 x 30 mins / wk

Classics, great books, myths/fables/legends from around the world, etc.

5th-6th grade selections (book lists: [TWTM](#) / [HLYBY](#) / [AO5](#) / [CM](#) / GB [5a](#) [5b](#))

Books/authors read this year included: Daniel Dafoe (Robinson Crusoe), Mark Twain (Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn), Jules Verne (Around the World in 80 Days), Robert Louis Stevenson (Treasure Island, Kidnapped), ...

- Other activities:
 - PE + HEALTH: workout 1 hr / day (swimming, biking, hiking, play ball, wii, etc.)
 - HOME MANAGEMENT SKILLS: chores, cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening, working with tools, building/remodeling, home/interior design, home safety, money management, etc. (about 2½ hrs / wk)
 - [Girl Guides](#) & [4H Clover Crafters](#): arts & crafts, socialization, team work, character building, community service, outdoor activities, survival skills, etc. (about 2 hrs / wk)
 - COMMUNITY SERVICE: volunteerism, environmentalism, political action, etc.
 - FIELD TRIPS (social science / occupational ed) + TRAVEL