

West Brooke Curriculum

Grade 4 Manual

MCP Math D Schedule

SAMPLE

By Jennifer Westbrook

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Welcome to West Brooke Curriculum

I felt like there was a need for a curriculum written for children of Jehovah's Witnesses using some of our excellent materials that Jehovah has provided. I have homeschooled my children for 17 years and have used a variety of curriculums. I always tell myself that we should use what we already have available to a greater degree, but let's face it, that takes a lot of planning. So in trying to attempt this I thought it would work best if daily/weekly instructions were written out ahead of time; because in my experience when I have a manual/guide, I feel better and feel less stress, the year is laid out, I can get the books I need and not have to scrounge up a lesson. I hope this will be a help to other parents out there who are having a tough time putting it all together.

The last 3 weeks are scheduled for Test Preparation. You can use these 3 weeks for this or for catching up on subjects you have fallen behind in, or you can just do a unit study of your choice. These are open weeks for the discretion of the teacher.

Bible

I have included a Bible program that has worked for us for a long time. If you already have something that works for you--stick to it! What I have scheduled is just to help out those who would like help. This is to cover studying for our weekly night meeting with OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE AND MINISTRY--MEETING WORKBOOK, and the magazines (Watchtower and Awake). Preparing for the Watchtower lesson will have to be done on the weekends.

This is the way we did it: in the morning at breakfast we read and discussed the text. As far as studying for the meetings, at 4th grade we did most this together (take two days to prepare for the weekly night meeting, the day before your meeting and the day of). This year focus on training your student to study for the meetings with the goal of doing it on their own. On days when the magazines are scheduled, sometimes they read/listen to articles on their own separately; and sometimes they pick out two articles that they both haven't done yet (or me) and we listen to them together.

Note: After Bible discussions we did PE for 30 minutes.

Math

MCP Mathematics D

MCP Mathematics promotes mathematical success. This trusted, targeted program uses a traditional drill and practice format with a predictable, easy-to-use lesson format. MCP Math is flexible and adaptable to fit a variety of instructional methods.

Level D Homeschool Kit includes:

Level D Student Edition

Level D Teacher's Edition

Student workbook can be purchased separately (no key in back)

MCP mathematics takes 5 days a week to complete in one school year.

4 Day week families: Parents you may also combine tests or teach two lessons in one day assigning a few problems from both lessons in order to keep up with the schedule.

Language Arts

Spelling: Several options to choose from, 1 lesson per week.

Reading: A major part of our Language Arts is reading! Read as many titles from the list provided in this introduction as you can this year.

A list is provided to pick from. Choose at least nine books for the year, although it would be better if the student read more. It would be nice to schedule them all, but I know that some do not like to read, and I hope we fix that. Others have learning disabilities. Consequently, not everyone can handle reading a lot of books. All books suggested have been read either by all of us, or at least the kids. I will recommend books that my kids really enjoyed, and I hope that yours will too. Narration is a Charlotte Mason method of reading comprehension. Basically, just get your kids to tell you what is going on in the story, their version of it. This goes for ones they are reading on their own as well as ones you are reading out loud.

Reading aloud to your kids is a great way to bond with them. I suggest that you choose a couple of books to read aloud to them for the year. We have a great time when we do this, developing reading comprehension better than any workbook ever dreamed of. It increases reading ability, vocabulary, and future writing abilities. This is especially important if you have students with any learning disabilities or are reluctant readers. Even Dads will enjoy this when you read out loud. This is great for trips, and who knows, maybe Dad will enjoy helping with this part of homeschooling. It can be a family event! Two great adventures are scheduled this year to Read-Aloud to your children: *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Swiss Family Robinson*.

Two literature studies are scheduled this year, these two books your student will read himself; and he will do study guides that will teach vocabulary and reading comprehension. *The Cricket in Times Square* and *Homer Price*.

The Cricket in Times Square by George Selden tells the story of Chester, Tucker, and Harry. Tucker is a city mouse who lives in the Times Square Subway Station and spends his days scrounging for food around New York with his friend Harry the cat. Then, one day, Tucker meets a country cricket from Connecticut named Chester at the Bellini's newsstand. Together, Harry and Tucker show Chester around New York City and discover his amazing musical ability. With his unique talent, Chester is able to delight the people of New York and help the Bellini family business before returning to his home in the country. *The Cricket in Times Square Set* provides students and educators with all the resources they need to effectively study this classic story of unlikely friendship by George Selden.

Homer Price by Robert McCloskey tells the story of a boy living in Centerburg, Ohio. Along with a cast of unforgettable characters, Homer gets caught in some outrageous situations that include comic books, unstoppable doughnut machines, a better mouse trap, and even robbery! The *Homer Price Set* provides students and educators with all the resources they need to effectively study this classic novel about small-town America by Robert McCloskey.

Grammar *Evan-Moor Grammar & Punctuation 4 (25 Important Rules)*

Writing

Evan-Moor Writing Fabulous Sentences & Paragraphs

Guide your students through the process of writing with scaffolded practice that's as engaging as it is educational!

The creative and structured lessons in *Writing Fabulous Sentences & Paragraphs* introduce students to essential writing techniques without losing the imaginative spirit that makes writing fun. From main ideas and topic sentences, to figurative language and descriptive details, this book is filled with activities that help your students develop strong writing skills.

Writing will be a variety. We will do some copy work. This is where the student copies good quality literature so that eventually he learns to write correctly. I will leave it up to the discretion of the Home Teacher how much the student is to copy since each student's abilities vary. We will also write on varying subjects. There will be reports, stories, letters, the two above mentioned literature guides, etc. Also, you will see some links next to the book list of some free study guides. Feel free to substitute some writing assignments with ones from these guides to go along with the book the student is currently reading. I have scheduled writing on most days, which are not expected to be long drawn out assignments. As the Teacher, it is up to your discretion if you would rather do just a couple for the week and spend more time polishing up these writings. You can certainly change writing assignments as you see fit.

Additional Language Arts Books:

D'Nealian Handwriting grade 4 (cursive-optional)

Landry News by Andrew Clements

Science

Choose a WBC Level 4 Science Guide & books to go along with this manual.

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History /Geography

WBC World Geography 4 Reader by Susan Adams & Jennifer Westbrook {NOTE: this workbook is intended to teach students to learn to do some research, which is a vital skill throughout life. However, this is not intended to be long and drawn out. Have the student work diligently for 30 minutes looking for answers; if he cannot find them then he can refer to the answer key in the back of the workbook}

Usborne Geography Encyclopedia with Complete World Atlas

Evan-Moor Skill Sharpeners Geography 4

It would be beneficial to have an Atlas of the World to refer to for more detailed map studies; such as *National Geographic Student World Atlas or a Globe*.

Additional printable maps can be found at <http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/>

State Studies In 4th grade students learn about their state; find a workbook to use, books from the library, your encyclopedia, or free resources online to do this. Schedule the last 4 weeks of school- plenty of time to hunt around for what you want to use. There are probably enough free resources to not need to purchase anything. Your library will usually have a lot of books on your state. Use a state road map, print out a blank state map and have your student label main land features, major cities, landmarks/parks. You can require a state report. Do some research on your county. Do a county map. Lots of field trips! State Parks often have an array of brochures on your state. Use a search engine to find: “*your state* study guide 4th grade” online. Here are some sources I found:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/homeschooling-geography-4132477> (go to the bottom for other states)

Other resources:

If you want a workbook you could try: *My First Book About (your state)*

If you really just want to purchase curriculum (it might take all year to cover though):

<https://splashpublications.com/product-category/statehistoryprograms/>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/states/us-states-hub/>

<https://www.50states.com/>

<https://www.teachersfirst.com/share/states/>

<http://elementalblogging.com/us-state-study-homeschoolers-revisited/>

Five-State Rummy card game by School Zone (optional)

States and Capitals flash cards by School Zone (optional)

ART- Usborne Complete Book of Art Ideas- optional

Gather a variety of art supplies before starting; see pp. 4-7, 100-101, 196-197

NOTE: from the suggested pages for the week, choose any art project(s), any that you do not get to but would like to can be saved for summer or next school year.

Reading- Choose at least 9 novels for the year however more would be better.

Parents: This is a good year to choose a few good books to read aloud to your student(s)

James Herriot's Dog Stories: Warm and Wonderful Stories About the Animals Herriot Loves Best [A living book/ Nature]

James Herriot's Cat Stories [A living book/ Nature]

James Herriot's Animal Stories [A living book/ Nature]

James Herriot's Treasury for Children [A living book/ Nature- all of his books for children collected in one beautiful volume]

Robinson Crusoe (find an abridged version, we used Calvert's version- very good)

Call it Courage by Armstrong Sperry

Homesick My Own Story by Jean Fritz (Newberry Award, haven't read this one, but sounds interesting)

Stuart Little by White

Trumpet of the Swan White

Childhood of Famous Americans (series) HF

The Adventures of Young Buffalo Bill E. Cody Kimmel (series) HF

From the Mixed up Files of Mrs. Basil E Frankweiler by EL Konigsburg

Star in the Storm by Harlow

The Borrowers Norton

The Cricket in Times Square Selden

Chester Cricket's New Home Selden

Beethoven LIVES upstairs Nicole

Anansi the Spider folk tales (several book titles)

Minn of the Mississippi Holling

Tales of Robin Hood an Usborne book

And more.....

List of Abbreviations used in this manual:

RA- Read Aloud suggestion- by the Home Teacher to the student

WT- *Watchtower magazine*

TT4- Teaching Textbooks 4

p.- page

pp.- pages

*see note page

mtg= meeting

HF- Historical Fiction

SS- Social Studies

EM SS Geography 4= Evan Moor Skill Sharpeners Geography 4 Workbook

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Internet Links: internet links are provided to various websites outside of West Brooke Curriculum. Parents please check these first before allowing children to do so. If a link is broken, use an internet search engine to find something similar.

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Week 1	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:	Date:
Bible	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasures from God's Word <input type="checkbox"/> Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Living as Christians <input type="checkbox"/> suggestion from jw.org: Family Worship Project > Acting Courageously				
Math	Chapter 1 Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5
Spelling	Lesson 1	→	→	→	Test
Grammar & Punctuation 4	Rule 1 Kinds of Sentences pp. 3-4	p. 5	p. 6	Capital Letters*	
Writing	Look up descendant in your dictionary; write definition and use in a sentence	Copy the scripture from today's text		The Beginning of People	
Social Studies	◇{See Notes}First Man and Woman, Flood, Drama, Tower of Ba'bel ◇Study Geographic Terms in World Geography 4 Reader & <i>Usborne Geography Encyclopedia</i> ; Choose 4 geographic terms to write the definitions. ◇ <i>Usborne Geography Encyclopedia</i> World Maps pp. 258-263 study ◇WBC World Geography 4 Reader: Label Continents and Oceans and color world map. ◇EM SS Geography 4 pp. 5-12 (World, Seasons, Navigation)				
<i>Art Ideas</i>	pp. 4-7	pp. 8-11	pp. 12-13	pp. 14-15	
Reading Selection					

Notes for Week 1

Saying for the week: Beauty is only skin deep.

You may have heard the saying "beauty is only skin-deep," which means that while someone may be beautiful on the outside, their character—what's inside, and more meaningful—isn't necessarily attractive.

Poetry: *Random House Book of Poetry for Children* by Prelutsky is a good poetry book for this grade. Or find some poetry books from your library to read some out of from time to time throughout the year.

Bible: Help your students prepare for the weekly night meeting. Suggestion: split it up into 2 to 3 sections of study. What we did: Our meeting is on Tuesday night. On Monday nights we listen to the Bible reading together at dinner time and discuss Treasures from God's Word. On Tuesday Mornings we finished up meeting prep with Apply yourself to the Field Ministry and Living as Christians.

Reading- suggestion: *Stuart Little*

you may read your choice from the book list in the introduction to this manual or other book of your choice. Endeavor to read at least 30 minutes per day. In this section of the schedule write down the title and author of the book you are reading for your portfolio records. (same directions for each week)

Sometimes I will make a suggestion, it is up to you if you follow that suggestion.

*Teachers- 4th grade is a good year for RA (read –alouds) choose a couple for the year that you can read to all of your students. By the way, these can even be books for older children and the younger students will still get much out of it.

Library Book Basket: For elementary grades I kept a basket of library books on science topics, geography, readers available for the kids to choose what they want to read about. This is a good year for this as well. This year studying cultures your library will no doubt have a lot of books on different countries, folk tales, cooking & craft books from around the world that you can check out. Choose some of the titles from the reading list too. Look ahead at which countries you will need for the next 2-3 weeks and go to the library only that often.

Inflatable Globe: we use an inflatable globe to play geography games. Toss the ball back and forth and name the country your thumb lands on. ABC Geography- each time you catch the ball you name a country from the next letter of the alphabet. You can call out a country and see who can find the capital the fastest (if not on the globe with a World Atlas)

Evan-Moor Writing Fabulous Sentences & Paragraphs: Parents flip through this book and become familiar with it. Read the introductory front section and note the blank forms in the back that you can make copies of and use throughout the year to assist with writing assignments.

Schedule: West Brooke Curriculum is mainly 4 days a week. Some math programs may require 5 days a week to complete in their entirety in one school year. I have added a 5th day to the grid so that when a math requires the extra day it is there. Also, parents you have a place to fill in extra activities completed for the week such as field trips, music lessons, PE, Co-op classes, etc. To complete everything in 4 days instead of 5 here are some suggestions:

- Have students take their spelling test on day 4 of your school week.
- Combine some of the math together, either combine tests together or take two lessons, teach both and have students do a select number of problems off both lessons in one day.
- Combine writing assignments or select just a few for the week to be completed by your last day of the week.

*Capital Letters Rules

→ Use a capital letter to begin the first word of a sentence.

(Parents: explain also that in poetry the first letter of every line is capitalized)

Today we went to the park.

→ Use a capital letter to begin the first word, the last word, and all other important words in the *title* of a book, story, magazine article, poem, song, or TV show. The word Bible would be capitalized.

Stuart Little (book)

“Ugly Duckling” (story)

→ Begin each part of the name of a person with a capital letter.

Solomon Grundy

Tony Cassia

→ Begin a title of a person, such as Ms., Mrs., Mr., or Dr., with a capital letter.

Dr. Mantooth

Mrs. Ashley

Mr. Cassia

→ Always capitalize the word I.

I know I need to do my chores.

Names of Places

→ Begin each important word in the names of towns, cities, states, and countries and their abbreviations with a capital letter.

Tallahassee, Florida- FL

United States- U.S.

→ Begin the names of streets and their abbreviations with a capital letter.

River Lane- Ln.

Sunshine Boulevard- Blvd.

Palm Street- St.

Gator Drive- Dr.

Days, Months, and Holidays

→ Begin the names of days of the week and months as well as their abbreviations with a capital letter.

Sunday- Sun.

August- Aug.

Thursday- Thur.

→ Begin each important word in the name of a holiday or special day with a capital letter. This applies even though we do not celebrate holidays.

Easter

Memorial of Christ’s death

Chinese New Year

Social Studies- Our story, as people all begins at the beginning with our creation. Today read about this from *My Book of Bible Stories Story 3* or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 2 & 3* read the scriptures at the end of the story as well. So everyone on earth today are descendants of Adam and Eve.

Next we are all descendants of Noah and his family read stories 9 & 10 from *My book of Bible Stories* and the cited scriptures. Or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 5 & 6*

Listen to the Drama *Jehovah's Judgment Against Law-Defying People*

Now we will find out how we got different languages and cultures is because of what happened at the tower of Babel. Read story 12 from *My Book of Bible Stories* and the Cited scriptures. Or *Lessons you Can Learn from the Bible Story 7*

Writing- The Beginning of People

At the end of the week: Write a page in your journal outlining how "People" got here and where we descended from. You may illustrate this if you like. Remember to use capital letters correctly.

Evan-Moor Writing Fabulous Sentences & Paragraphs: see pages 94-109 to assist with this assignment.