

Fourth Grade Welcome Letter

Dear Parent(s),

We would like to welcome you to a new and exciting year in fourth grade. It is our privilege to teach and minister to your child. Listed below are some helpful hints.

ALL ABOUT ME – This project provides an opportunity for your child to share about him/herself. It involves a brief oral report and a bulletin board display with pictures and a short written autobiography. A due date will be assigned well in advance to allow for ample preparation.

BIBLE – Your child will be expected to learn from memory the assigned memory work on the assigned dates.

CONFERENCES – Please avoid “drop-in” conferences. Please call the office for an appointment, or send a note or email your child’s teacher.

HOMEWORK – This is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. School activities are exceptions to this schedule. Homework assignments can be completed in school, time permitting. Homework is due the next day as well as class work. Late work is NOT accepted.

MAKE-UP WORK DUE TO ABSENCE – Please call the office before 11:00 a.m. on the second day of absence to request make-up work. Please pick up the work anytime after 3:00 p.m. from the office. Due dates are at the discretion of the teacher. Credit is given for make-up work for excused absences and completion of the work within the stated deadline. Please check the Handbook for this policy.

MATH – Fourth graders are required to memorize the 100 addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts in five minutes or less with 5 errors or less.

NOTEBOOK – Please read and follow “Guidelines for Notebooks.” Please do not remove papers (graded or not graded) from the notebook.

READING – Book reports are approximately every 6-8 weeks encompassing a variety of subject areas utilizing diversified modes of expression. Additionally, your child must have a free reader in class every day and complete an accelerated reading book (level 3.5 or better) worth 4 points every quarter. Please help your child select appropriate reading selections.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS –

We utilize a discipline record that correlates with the areas under Social Habits and Work Habits on the report card. It allows for positive reinforcement through rewards for appropriate behaviors and provides a means of disciplinary action for inappropriate behaviors. Detention is assigned for repeated inappropriate behaviors or when a child accumulates 6 or more tallies within one week.

Daily assignments, i.e. class work and homework, are DUE the next day and will NOT be accepted late unless a reasonable excuse is given in writing by the parent. Students receive a weekly assignment sheet to use as a daily aid. This must be kept in the front of their notebook and may be taken home daily. It is a valuable follow-up and communication tool. It is collected every Friday and returned on Monday for parent signature for any incomplete/missing assignments circled daily in red.

In addition, for purposes of communication, any test and/or quiz with a grade below a C- (70%) will require a parent's signature to be returned the next day. A responsibility tally will be given for each day the paper goes unsigned.

Report card grades are determined by quizzes, tests, worksheets, workbook pages, projects, and reports for all subjects. Progress reports are sent at 5 week intervals as needed.

Please keep this information for future reference. Please read over this information with your child and return the bottom portion signed by you and your child. If you have any questions, please make an appointment. We look forward to a year of teamwork and mutual support as we minister in His name. Please remember, you are the first step in building independent and responsible behavior in your child. You are the first positive link to our school.

Thank you for your support, prayers, and cooperation as we partner together to accomplish God's will.

In His service,

Fourth Grade Teachers

Ephesians 2:10 – *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Fourth Grade Guidelines for Notebook

Students' notebooks are a valuable tool that can aid the student. Students' notebooks will be checked throughout the year for organization. Tallies may be given for notebook disorganization and detention may be assigned for continued disorganization.

**** ALL papers are to be kept in the various notebook sections until units are completed and/or the teacher instructs otherwise. Please DO NOT remove any papers (graded or not graded). Notebooks are generally "cleaned" at the end of each quarter in class with the teacher. ****

**** It is important to keep notebooks organized as it is a valuable aid in increasing time management and organizational skills. File papers (place inside the metal rings, NOT in pockets) by subject in the designated notebook sections. Do this daily and regularly. ****

**** Place all papers requiring a parent signature in the pocket tab divider labeled "PS Papers" located directly behind the assignment sheet. ****

ARRANGEMENT:

First – Current assignment sheet

Second – Pocket tab divider labeled "PS Papers"

Third – Some blank sheets of wide lined notebook paper

Fourth – One labeled divider for each subject area in ABC order: Bible, Language, Math, Penmanship, Reading, Science, Social Studies, and Spelling

Fifth – Two folders: One for art and one for flyers that go home

Social Habits and Work Habits Guidelines for Report Cards

0 – 5 Tallies = O

6 – 12 Tallies = S

13 – 17 Tallies = N

18 - Tallies = U

Fourth Grade Curriculum Overview

God's order, creativity, and design are reinforced in the curriculum content. The importance of language order through the parts of speech is emphasized in language arts activities. Gathering information, note taking skills, writing drafts, and formal and informal writing skills are taught, emphasized, and practiced. These activities culminate in our "Wax Museum Day." Students also give demonstration speeches. Additionally, the reading curriculum is enriched with additional novel studies pertinent to the grade level curriculum such as *By the Great Horn Spoon*, *The Island of the Blue Dolphins*, *Number the Stars*, and *The Iron Dragon Never Sleeps*.

Addition, subtraction, basic multiplication and division facts are reviewed in math. Additionally, long multiplication and division are taught as well as square roots and exponents. Students learn to address decimals, fractions of like denominators, reduce fractions, graphs and data charts, figure area and perimeter, and money. Time, sequencing, place value, number lines, polygons, and word problems are covered. Also, students participate in our annual "Taste Test" in June.

God's creation and plan are prevalent while studying units in earth science, health science, and physical science. The scientific process is utilized to discover scientific facts and God's truths in science. Students write a scientific research paper, and take a question through the scientific method in their science projects. Appreciation and character development are supported by the study of California's history culminating in a history project, report, and our annual "California History Day." Students not only read about history, they listen, taste, feel, and "do" history. Students enjoy singing California songs throughout the year.

Our new Bible curriculum, *Building Life Castles*, covers the life of Christ and the Holy Spirit from the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles, and building and reinforcing character development through the life of Paul. Students enjoy singing all types of hymns and Christian music.

The fourth grade curriculum is enriched through many field trips during the year. One of the memorable trips is the Outdoor Education trip to Big Rock Creek camp where students are engaged in hands on activities, nature hikes, rope climbing skills, and team building skills. Students visit the Reagan Library, the J. Paul Getty museum, the San Fernando Mission, the Satwiwa Native American Cultural Center in the Santa Monica Mountains, and see an IMAX movie. The study of California history is brought to an exciting conclusion when the students participate in a two day Sacramento trip in June. Students visit the same places they studied such as Sutter's Mill, Sutter's Fort, Coloma, the state capitol, and they even get to pan for gold on the American River where James Marshall discovered gold!

God's Word is integrated in a real and meaningful way into every aspect of the fourth grade curriculum. All subjects are taught from a biblical perspective. Our ultimate goal is to help young people understand God's sovereignty, and His plan for each of them, which is to live for Christ and do all things to the glory of God (Philippians 4: 6 and I Corinthians 10: 31).