

**Back to
school
night!**

Fourth
Grade:
Mrs.
BOSNA

The beginning of a “growth Mind Set.” I may not be able to “yet.” But with hard work and effort, I WILL! Moving away from the “Fixed Mind Set.”

4th Grade is a year for learning responsibility.... with guidance.

4th Grade is a year to LEARN how to study. –make sure they have a quiet study space/area and spend some time TEACHING them how to study.

Children need routines to be successful: Horatio Sanchez’s “Anchor points”: Wake-up routine, main meal, bedtime (Home)

4th Grade is a year to let go of the reins a little and let them struggle through, so that they can learn how to be successful by their own efforts. Struggle is good; struggle forces us to persevere. Struggle makes us smarter!

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That said..... 😊

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4th GRADE CURRICULUM

Literature:

This year, our class will participate in the Language Arts Curriculum Pilot. Grammar and vocabulary will go along with the stories we read. We will also read some full-length novels together during the year, and students will participate in literature circles with their classmates. Students' reading scores will include Wonders reading quizzes and assignments from literature circles or other books they're reading. Reading comprehension and literary analysis are key components in literature, and comprehension is key to understanding math, science, and social studies. Some students may go to Read 180. If your child will be a part of this program, I will let you know ahead of time and be here to discuss it further with you.

AR Goals: Students will set AR goals with me based off of SRI scores. They will be expected to read nightly at home and in class. Now, they should each be able to complete a chapter book at his/her reading level and pass the AR quiz to go with it. Prizes are awarded in class!

Math:

Our focus is on the Common Core Math Standards. We will be using the district adopted Houghton Mifflin “GO Math!” materials as well as supplemental materials. Much of your child’s success in math depends on their understanding of arithmetic, place value, and problem solving skills. Get those flashcards back out if needed for facts fluency! Please be positive and have a good MATHITUDE!! If you are positive and relaxed, your child will be too! 😊

P.E.:

We do daily morning exercises and will be running Mon.-Fri., weather permitting. 4th grade has P.E. together one day a week & Motor Skills is on Thursday afternoons. We also do Go Noodle exercises each day before math. Students should dress comfortably on P.E. days and wear running shoes. Students need to bring running shoes in their backpack if they wear other shoes to school Mon.-Fri. If students need to be excused from P.E. or running for health reasons, a note must be sent from home. If students need an inhaler for exercise, please see Ms. Yvonne so that we can get one here at school.

Science:

Our science curriculum involves hands-on activities and experiments as well as written assessment. We are making a shift towards the new NGSS Standards. 4th grade science units include the study of living things, rocks and minerals, and electricity and magnetism. Students are also encouraged to pursue their interests by doing follow-up activities or experiments at home. Students are welcome to demonstrate or share an experiment they've done at home in class and earn extra credit. Science scores on the report card come from classwork, projects, reports, and tests. Study guides will be sent home to help students study for tests.

Social Studies:

4th grade focuses on studying California geography and history. This curriculum includes projects as well as written assessments. Social studies grades on the report card come from classwork, projects, reports, and tests. Study guides will be sent home to help students study for tests.

Writing:

There is an emphasis on writing in all curriculum areas. Complete sentences and paragraphs, ability to self-edit, use of descriptive language, use of simple and expanded sentences, and clear expression of thought are expected. 4th graders will write summaries, narratives, and response to literature as well as other genre. 4th graders are expected to write 3-5 paragraph compositions.

Computers:

We have 4 classroom computers, 4 laptops and soon to come...5 Ipads!! Also, we will be going to computer lab 3 x's a week. If you have a computer at home, please have your child practice keyboarding skills and check out the sites on our classroom, school, and district web pages. Programs we use: Fastt Math, Microsoft Word, Powerpoint, Accelerated Reader, Moby Max, Kid's typing

Visual/Performing Arts:

There will be several art projects during the year where students can learn about different artists and techniques. Our school has the Meet the Masters art program thanks to our fabulous PTA! In Spring, we will have a special teacher coming in for additional lessons! We'll also have art projects from my own resources.

This year, fourth graders will all learn how to play the recorder on Wednesdays in the Fall! We are so excited for this opportunity!

DISCIPLINE

A copy of the school's Code of Conduct is in your child's Homework Binder. Our class rules are based on the Six Pillars of Character: Citizenship, Responsibility, Respect, Caring, Fairness, and Trustworthiness. Emphasis is placed on positive reinforcement, responsibility, respect, and self-discipline. 4th graders are expected to be respectful of others' learning time and my teaching time. They are also expected to use their class time wisely and finish their work on time. Students who choose not to follow the rules sign the discipline notebook, and there is a progressive discipline system which begins with a verbal warning. The Weekly Evaluation sent home on Fridays has a classroom behavior section. Your support is crucial to a successful discipline program. Class time spent on discipline problems is time lost from learning. We have to incentives in class at this moment: You vs. Me, Class Dojo and Growth Mindset Awards!

HOMEWORK

Homework is your child's responsibility. Please do not do it for them. PARENT WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. That doesn't mean you shouldn't check it for them so they can correct mistakes before turning it in, but it needs to be their work. If your child forgets his or her homework, please do not bring it to school for them; it will still be counted as late if you do. Please let them accept the consequences and bring it themselves on the next day.

Homework should take 45-60 minutes and must be done NEATLY. Messy homework will have to be redone. Homework may change during the year according to student needs. We are starting with the following:

Language Arts homework will be assigned as necessary. This could be vocabulary, grammar, or a writing assignment. Reading is usually done Monday-Thursday. Additional reading may need to be done for literature circles or research for science or social studies reports or projects.

AR percentages on Core Literature will be factored into their standards score for Reading.

3) Math homework is done nightly. This will usually be a practice book page, worksheet or Think Central ONLINE. Please let me know if you do not have a computer your child can use at home.

4) Other homework is assigned as needed, such as unfinished class work. Of course, homework changes will occur due to holidays, etc. If your child has a problem completing homework, or you have any questions, please contact me as soon as possible so I can make adjustments.

HOMEWORK PLANNER

Each Monday your child fills in the homework I assign for the week. Monthly assignments and important dates are also written down. Please go over it each night with your child, check the homework is complete and in the Homework pocket or folder, and initial the Planner at least once during the week. For the first week, I would like you to initial it daily. The Planner is to help your child be organized and learn time management skills; it should always be in your child's 3-ring binder. Please sign on Mondays only starting in September, unless your child still needs daily checks and reminders.

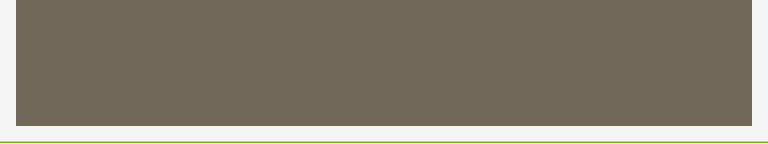
HOME WORK BINDER

Your child needs a 3-ring binder. (1") Please see website for details. Your child is responsible for bringing it to school and home daily.

GRADING POLICY

Most assignments, projects, reports, and tests will be graded and recorded. Some assignments are checked for correctness, but not formally graded. Most math homework is corrected in class. Papers with a standard score or percentage written by me are the ones I will count. There will be opportunities for extra credit during the year. Missing, incomplete, or late assignments, reports, or projects do affect your child's average. This does include all homework assignments. Papers turned in without a name will be discarded if unclaimed. It is important that students take responsibility for their own work. Assignments written or done by parents will not be accepted. Standards scores are based on percentages as follows:

100% - 95%	4
94% - 80%	3
79% - 60%	2
Below 60%	1



There is definitely a “learning curve” in 4th grade, especially in the first trimester as students adjust to a new curriculum and learn how to study. Students who received “Es” in primary will not automatically get “4s” in 4th grade. This doesn’t necessarily mean your child is struggling or not performing at grade level. 4th grade curriculum, assessments, and grading are different from primary and should not be directly compared. Learning new concepts should be challenging. Students, even if academically gifted, may not get a 4, or even a 3, when presented with new concepts and skills. The focus should be on actual learning, retaining new knowledge, making progress, improving their study skills, and having pride and confidence in their successes. We want children to be lifelong learners and connect new knowledge to what they already know so they can apply it to their life and meet their goals.

Parents, please discuss with your child the importance of completing class and homework assignments on time, always doing their best, and showing pride in their work and academic progress.

CONFERENCES

We will conference at our first progress report in October. After that, conferences are scheduled at parent or teacher request. I am always available to talk with you about your child. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Email is usually the fastest way to reach me.


MISCELLANEOUS

***Helpful items** your child can bring to school: her/his own markers or crayons, plenty of pencils, a pencil box that fits in their desk, extra erasers, a dark colored white board marker (not the skinny ones), and an old sock for an eraser or a real eraser. Please help your child be an organized student by providing her or him with a backpack or book bag she/he can bring to school every day and hang on the back of their chair.

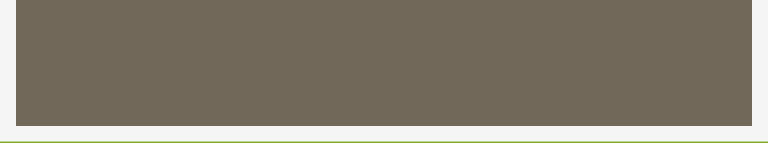
***Helpful items** your child needs at home: a ruler with both inches and centimeters, an elementary level dictionary, white, lined notebook paper, and a library card to check out books.

***Weekly Evaluations** are sent home on Mondays. These recap the week's homework, classroom behavior, and test scores or project grades. Please sign these and return them on Tuesdays.

***Progress Reports** are sent home mid-trimester to let you know how your child is doing before the report card is due.



***Absences** can put your child behind in schoolwork. Please have your child at school on time every day and all day unless they're ill. We do a lot of hands-on experiments and projects, discussions, group work, and written work. When students are absent, they really do miss out on key pieces of learning that can't be made up. If your child is absent, please arrange for your child's work to be picked up each day by another student in the class, a sibling, or yourself. This will help your child keep up with what's happening in class. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, let me know and I can send home that day's work.



***Snacks/Water Bottles:** Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack for morning recess; they may keep a water bottle on their desk. Research shows students need 6-8 glasses of water a day and can easily become dehydrated which affects their ability to focus and learn. Please, water only in the bottles, not juice or soda.

***E-Mail:** You or your child can e-mail me at school any time. It also gives me a quick and easy way to communicate with you.

***Class Web Page:** Our class web page can be accessed from the school web page. Check it out for curriculum notes and other information.

***Field Trip:** We will be going to the Mission San Luis Rey this year! We are very excited! If our Boosterthon goes well, all costs should be covered!

****Birthday Book Club***: Birthdays are always special days, and we like to help celebrate them with our students. We also want to encourage good eating habits so our students will have both a healthy mind and body. We have State guidelines regarding food that we have to follow. We ask that instead of bringing treats to class on your child's birthday, your child donates a book to our school library. A bookplate will be put inside with your child's name on it, and students donating to the Birthday Book Club will be recognized at Friday Flag that month. Your child can have the pleasure of sharing a good book with others and adding to our Antelope Hills library. Please do not send cupcakes or treats.

Other Information:

SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory) scores are available.

Visit Lexiles.com to learn more about your child's reading level and to get book suggestions!

Visit Quantiles.com to learn more about your child's math quantile score as well when that comes home!

Remind (formerly Remind 101): Please see flier and sign up. I use this often.

Text:
81010
Enter this message:
@bos