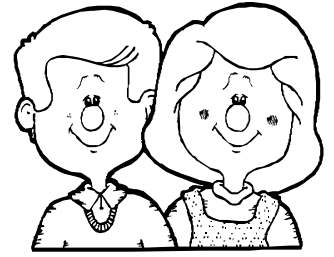


Welcome to Fourth Grade!

Homework

There will be homework every day. There are two things that I strongly believe that your child needs to practice each day. The first is reading and the second is the multiplication facts. (I will explain my reasoning for these in the reading and math sections.) There may also be some spelling, math, and science homework, as occasion requires.



Each student will receive a **homework folder** the first day of class with a homework sheet for keeping track of daily assignments and reading time. The folder will go home each day and will include the homework sheet, assignments that need to be worked on, and notes. The folder must be returned the next day with any assignments that are due, as well as the homework sheet initialed by the parent indicating that the reading and multiplication practice has been completed. The homework sheets will be checked each day at school. Those who have not completed the assignments will have to make them up at school. **We will start checking homework sheets the first week of school.**

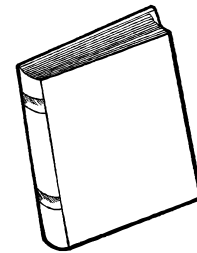
I realize that there may be days when it is impossible to get the reading and multiplication practice done. To accommodate this, your child will be given one **“OOPS” card** each month. If the assignment does not get done, they will be able to redeem the card for one “free day” of not doing homework. They can accumulate these cards throughout the school year and use them whenever needed.



Reading

“If you read 15 minutes a day, you would read 1/2 book a week, two books a month, 24 books a year, or approximately 1000 books in your lifetime. Which is equal to going to college five times-making you an authority on any subject you choose, or taking a trip around the world.”

(by Jim Trelease)



I strongly believe that reading is a skill that will open up a world of knowledge and opportunities for children. The only way to have access to this knowledge and these opportunities is to **read, read, read**. The more kids read, the better they get at it. Therefore, your child must read **at least 20 minutes** each day Monday through Friday. In the homework folder, you will find a reading log. Please record the amount of time your child has read and initial the correct box each day. The reading log will be checked every day at school.

Math

Although we will review addition and subtraction this year, the main focus of our math studies will involve multiplication. You may be as surprised as I was to find out that fourth graders learn some “really hard stuff,” like multiples, factors, multi-step multiplication, long division, adding fractions with different denominators, simplifying fractions, and learning algebraic properties. (WOW!) I’ve found that if the students don’t have a strong grasp of the basic multiplication facts, then the rest of the year is quite difficult.

If your child has not passed off the multiplication facts by the third week of school they will receive some yellow flashcards to take home and use for multiplication practice. I ask that each child review the flashcards 3 times each night. Please check the homework sheet each night whether your child has or has not completed the flashcard practice. It will be checked each day in school.



Sincerely,

Miss Baer

