

Dear Parents,

I am thrilled that you are one of my new or returning students!

We are working on our class routine and the learning the expectations for each subject area. The children may feel a bit overwhelmed, but please help me reassure them that we will work together to ensure success. This letter will highlight some important information that will allow your child to learn and excel in school this year.

Homework

In 4th grade, students will have something to study every evening. Reading, Spelling, and Math will be regular assignments. Children will have time to begin working on homework assignments in class if they use their time wisely.

Weekend homework will be given occasionally and will consist of studying for upcoming tests and projects.

It will be the **responsibility of each student** to make up all missed assignments. An absent folder will go home with the student when they return to school. Completed work should be returned in the folder within **three days** of absence.

Subject Areas

In spelling, students have received copies of the weekly word for the next several weeks. Each student should have a copy for home and school. A copy of the Challenge words and dictation sentences will go home every Monday. Tests will include challenge words and dictation sentences. There will be a Pre-test every Thursday, and if the student receives below a 94 A he/she has the opportunity to retake the test on Friday.

Reading is an integral part of learning. I have asked each student to read 20 - 30 minutes each evening. This can include the weekly story we are reading in class. We will have a reading test every Friday.

For Math we are using the Saxon Mathematics series. We will cover the lesson each day in class. Students will be given time to work on this in class. This should be taken home to check or complete as homework each night.

Religion is taught every day, all day long. Our faith will be strengthened by learning about our Church community, its leaders and the Ten Commandments. Every student should leave our classroom with the knowledge on how they can love and serve God in their daily lives. Students will attend liturgy each Thursday at 8:15. Please join us when possible.

Science and History are taught in units. In Science we will be using the text and Discovery Education, a web based program to reinforce our program. Our History will focus on Florida history, and current events.

Students will be tested in all subject areas. We will have quizzes, of which students will have no warning. Reviews for tests will be given. The tests for the week will be posted on the board Monday mornings.

On our webpage which you can access via the school site, you will find information about our weekly assignments. I try to update this each Sunday evening. Our assignments are also written on the board on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to copy down their assignments for the day. This eliminates the last minute rush to get it done before dismissal.

Grades are based on completion of work, quizzes homework, projects, participation and effort. The grading scale for 4th grade is: (90-100) A, (80-89) B, (70-79) C, (60-69) D, and below 59 F.

Thank you for all your support. Please feel free to contact me at any time. My email is diana.borish@saintmaryschool.net.

Thank you for your continued support,

Ms. Diana Borish