

WELCOME TO GRADE 4

SUMMER WORK

The brain is a muscle and to keep it in shape it needs continuous use. A dormant learning summer is huge obstacle in learning. Summer work is always crucial, but even more so since we are still filling some gaps caused by the pandemic.

This work will provide the most benefit and the least amount of stress for everyone if it is done a little bit of a time, week by week. Finishing it in June or waiting to September to start defeats the purpose.

I wouldn't start it until maybe June 21 or even after July 4, take a few weeks to recharge. Once the work is started, anything that can be done consistently and as part of routine will yield greater results. As you will hear from me repeatedly EFFORT is everything.

READING

Scholars will have three books to read and write about this summer. The reading books have been provided to the scholars as well as composition notebooks. Everything they need, I will provide. Books and completed notebooks must be brought back the first day of school.

Note: Scholars cannot possibly read enough at this age, so additional reading of any kind is expected. I am not concerned with what other books are read and there are no additional writing assignments on these books. I just want your scholar to read. The long-term benefits of this are tremendous.

Book #1 *Ellie, Engineer* by Jackson Pearce

In the envelope with the books and supplies, scholars will receive a list of comprehension questions to answer for every two chapters of this book. Best effort is always expected, answer in complete sentences with excellent detail.

Book #2 *What Was the March on Washington* (from the *Who Was?* Series)

In the provided composition notebook, scholars will write the ten most important facts they learned about while reading. Each fact should be in complete sentences.

Book #3 *I Survived the California Wildfires, 1987* (from the *I Survived* Series)

Please read the book and then write a 2-4 paragraph essay. The first paragraph or paragraphs should describe/summarize what you read. The last paragraph or paragraphs

should be about how you felt while reading the book and what you would do if you were faced with a similar situation. Again, I expect your best effort and want to see very well written paragraphs. Please write in the notebook given.

MATH

iXL

The goal for iXL would be to average around 20 minutes a week during the summer. I don't need to see any other iXL work besides math. In the envelope, there is a list of what I see as important **3rd grade skills** on iXL to work toward mastering. I would stick with these skills. Again, these are **3rd grade skills**, **please do not work on 4th grade skills**.

Multiplication Facts

Scholars should practice, practice, practice and then practice some more. Almost everything we do in Math in 4th grade is related to the basic multiplication facts from 0-12. If these facts are memorized, they will have a much easier time succeeding in Math next year. Automaticity of math facts leads more time to spent on conceptual thinking. In 4th grade we do not just do math, we understand math. I have provided each scholar flash cards in the envelope to use for practicing, this method is old school but effective. As long as there is some kind of practice, I am good with any methodology.

SUPPLY LIST

Just 6 to 12 #2 pencils (not mechanical!) and that is it.

Everything else is provided! No need to waste money on anything extra. It will just be sent home.

All I really need is for scholars to come to school every day that they can, ready to work, and willing to learn. I want scholars always giving their best effort and I want all assignments completed on time. A big focus will be on expected behavior early in the year. My bar is extremely high, your scholar will work hard and behave. I have everything else.

Important notes:

- 1) Regular backpacks are fine as scholars will not be taking Chromebooks home in 4th grade.
- 2) Lockers are not to be decorated in any way, there is to be nothing in scholar lockers daily besides their backpacks, lunches and jackets. At night they are to be completely empty.
- 3) No need to purchase any folders or binders as well.

Scholars new to SHSS

I will have all of your summer supplies ready to be picked up. If you would like to meet me and have a chat when you are picking up the materials, I would love to do that. Just email me so we can coordinate.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

If you have any questions or need anything, please email me at cuva@sacredheart-boston.org. I will be in the school most of the summer.

Have a safe and wonderful summer, I can't wait until September!

Mr. Uva