

September 9, 2019



Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

Welcome Back to School!!! My name is Alison Bradshaw, and I am honored and excited to be your child's fourth grade teacher. I have taught at Redeemer for close to 30 years. I have a Masters Degree in Education and Curriculum from Pepperdine University and a California Teaching Credential. ***This year will be an exciting and rewarding year of Spiritual, Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical growth for your child.*** I deeply desire your prayer and support throughout this school year. Please feel free to get in contact with me if you have any questions or comments about any part of fourth grade. ***My email address is abradshaw5th@gmail.com.***

Please forgive the length of this particular Parent Letter due to the beginning of the school year and all the information that comes with it. Future Parent Letters will not be as lengthy.

Each Monday, you will receive a "Parent Letter" such as this one with pertinent information and a list of classroom lessons and assignments. These assignment lists are to inform you of what is covered in class each day. Obviously, these are subject to change for various reasons. Students are ***NOT to work ahead***, but instead this is a way to give parents a handle on what each child should have accomplished on the day and date listed. If something is not completed it will be homework (as well as possibly assigned homework), and must be completed by the next school day. ***I am confident that each and every one of my students are more than able and capable to do what is required of them as fourth graders.***

I have enjoyed the first three days of school. ***My students and I are getting to know each other and are off to a great start.*** I am looking forward to an amazing year together. ***I look forward to meeting all or you at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26th at 6:00pm.*** ***I will discuss fourth grade policies and procedures as well as my exciting expectations for your children this year.*** Just a reminder this is a ***Parent Only*** evening.

On a daily basis students are taught in any given subject matter for approximately 40/45 minutes. A lesson is presented, and students then work independently on a related assignment. I encourage my students to do their absolute best on assignments, and I am always ready and willing to assist. ***Whatever is not completed during the allotted time is homework, along with possible assigned homework.*** It is my objective that fourth graders have no more than 45 minutes of homework on any given night. If students are on the average spending more than 45 minutes they are possibly either struggling with subject matter, or they work slowly, or are not staying on task in class.

ASSIGNMENT POLICY: Students must have all assignments completed by the next day. If an assignment is not completed by the next day students will receive a 50% on that particular assignment. Any assignments turned in later than the day after they are due will receive a 0%. Assignments given on Friday will be due on the following Monday. (It is important to note that if a student is absent he/she will have as many days absent to make-up the assignments missed.) Ideally, I would like to see all assignments turned in the following day. I am confident that my students are more than able and capable to do what is required of them as fourth graders.

Each Friday students will be given a list of Spelling Words for the upcoming week. The following is information regarding the weekly required Spelling tests and homework assignments.

****A Spelling Pre-Test is given each Wednesday and a Spelling Final Test each Friday.*** If a student passes the Spelling Pre-Test with 100% he/she is excused from taking the Spelling Final Test on Friday.

***Spelling Definitions-** Students are required to look up each week's spelling words in the Spelling Glossary and write each definition given. These definitions need to be spelled correctly. Since they are to be copied from the Spelling Glossary this should not be an issue. (Spelling Glossaries will be provided and need to be brought back to school after each use. **Students are not to get definitions from any other source other than the glossary I have provided for them.**) Spelling Definitions are graded with a possible forty points given. Students can achieve forty points by spelling the word and definition correctly, and making sure they write each definition given not just the first one.

***Spelling Sentences - Spelling Sentences need to be at least six words per sentence.** Each Spelling Sentence can only have one spelling word in it. Also, the form of each spelling word cannot be altered. For example, if the spelling word is "pursue" it cannot be changed to "pursues" or "pursued." Each Spelling Sentence is worth four points. A point is given if the sentence begins with a capital letter. Another point will be given if it ends with correct punctuation. Also, the spelling word needs to be spelled correctly for a point. Also, a point will be given if the sentence makes sense and is a complete thought. Spelling Sentences total 80 points. **(Needless to say, students are not allowed to copy the**

example sentence in their glossary.) Also, I will be giving my students cursive writing template to build up their cursive writing skills. In the future, I will be requiring my students to write a certain amount of their weekly Spelling Sentences in cursive.

Alphabetical Order - Weekly Spelling Words are to be listed in alphabetical order. Obviously, the words need to be spelled correctly. This assignment will be worth twenty points. **Once again, Spelling word lists are passed out each Friday, and students have until the following Friday to complete their Definitions, Sentences and Alphabetical Order assignments for the week. (This first full week of school students were given their word lists today, (Monday), and all above assignments are due this Friday.)**

Weekly tests are given in Bible. We will be reading through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John this year in fourth grade. Three chapters will be read and discussed each week. For example, today we began with Matthew 1. On Tuesday, we will read and discuss Matthew 2, and on Wednesday, Matthew 3. There will be notes given to students on each chapter read and discussed totaling ten notes each week. Bible Tests consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank and short answer. I encourage students to study each evening for weekly tests. **Each Friday a Bible Test will be given on the weekly Bible Notes.**

I require my students to write comprehension questions in History and Science in complete sentences. I encourage them to use the wording in the question in their answer. When students write comprehension questions in complete and thorough sentences they will learn the information thoroughly and in context. This is an essential skill as they progress in their education. Students are given templates to assist them in writing thorough answers. I have modeled and will continue to model what I encourage and require of my students.

Reading is very important for children. It broadens their hearts and minds in powerful ways. My purpose and vision for book reports is to engage students in reading continuously. I believe they will gain a love for literature and the power of the written word. **The fourth grade curriculum requires fourth graders to read four novels this year. These novels are Dear Mr. Henshaw, Island of the Blue Dolphins, Esperanza Rising, and By the Great Horn Spoon, Students will read a book a quarter.** After each book is read fourth graders will be required to do a book report worksheet. This worksheet will include various ways in which to evaluate reading comprehension and understanding, as well as critical thinking skills. **The first book I am requiring my fourth graders to read is Dear Mr. Henshaw.** Please make sure your child has all required books as soon as possible, and he/she begins reading **Dear Mr. Henshaw.** I will

be giving students the required worksheet later on in the quarter, along with a specific due date.

Math worksheets are assigned each day. As they are graded if ten or more problems are incorrect a “*Correct and Return*” is given. A “Correct and Return” gives students the opportunity to correct incorrect problems for a better grade. I have encouraged my students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Just a reminder regarding Honor Roll or High Honor Roll: Students with no more than ten late or missing assignments can qualify for Honor Roll or High Honor Roll if they have no more than two B’s. I am excited to see my students strive for this goal.

Feel free to speak to me regarding any questions you may have about any of the above. Just a reminder I will be going over all of this at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 26th.

God bless you all and have a great week!

Respectfully Yours,

*Alison Bradshaw, M.A.
Fourth Grade Teacher*

Important Information From the School Office:

- *Welcome Back to School Redeemer Family. We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a great year.*
- *This week will be our first week of Fun Friday Treats. Every Friday, after school, we will have treats for sale for \$1 or \$1.50 (depending on the treats offered). This week, we will be selling popsicles for \$1.*
- *We had a nice turn out for praise team try-outs last Thursday. It's not too late. If you or your child can sing or play an instrument and would like to join the Redeemer Praise Team for Friday morning chapels, please see Mr. Wamble*
- *Thursday, anytime between 3:15pm and 4:15pm to try out.*
- *September 16th: Hot lunch begins. Please send your child to school with a lunch all week this week. Our hot lunch program will begin next week and is \$5 per day.*
- *September 26th: Back to School Night*

School Wish List

- *N/A*

Fourth Grade Curriculum for the Week of 9/19-9/13 and Upcoming Tests:

UPCOMING TESTS:

***Spelling Pre-Test #1 - Wednesday, 9/11 and Spelling Final Test #1 Friday, 9/13**

***Bible Test - Matthew 1-3 - Friday, 9/13**

***History Test - Chapter #1 - Tuesday, 9/24 (Students will complete study guides this week.)**

Monday, September 9th

Prayer

PE

Bible-Matthew 1

Spelling Word List #1

Language pp. 7-8

Math pp. 5-6

History pp. 12-18 + Worksheets

Science pp. 5-7

HW: Unfinished Classwork

Weekly Spelling Assignments

Study for Bible and Spelling Tests

Read for Dear Mr. Henshaw Book Report

Tuesday, September 10th

Prayer

Bible-Matthew 2

Language pp. 9-10

Math pp. 7-8

History pp. 21-25 + Worksheets

Science pp. 9-14 Comp. Check 1.3

HW: Unfinished Classwork

Weekly Spelling Assignments

Study for Bible and Spelling Tests

Read for Dear Mr. Henshaw Book Report

Wednesday, September 11th

Prayer
PE
Bible-Matthew 3
Spelling Pre-Test #1
Language pp. 11-12
Math pp. 9-10
History-Chapter #1 Review and Study Guide
Science pp. 15-17 Comp. Check 2.1
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Bible and Spelling Tests
Read for Dear Mr. Henshaw Book Report

Thursday, September 12th

Prayer
Language-Writing Assignment
Read & Think #1
Math pp. 11-12
History-Notes and Review Chapter #1
Science pp. 17-19 Comp. Check 2.2
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Weekly Spelling Assignments
Study for Bible, Spelling and History Tests
Read for Dear Mr. Henshaw Book Report

Friday, September 13th

Prayer
Chapel
Math pp. 13-14
Bible Test-Matthew 1-3
Spelling Final Test #1
Spelling Word List Lesson #2
History-Notes and Review Chapter #1
HW: Unfinished Classwork
Study for History Test
Read for Dear Mr. Henshaw Book Report