

4th Grade Newsletter

RELIGION:

- Students are learning about Jesus, “The Way, the Truth, and the Life.”
- We are reading about Saints and reading the first few books of the Old Testament.
- We celebrate Mass every Thursday at 8:15; you are welcome to join us!

MATH:

- Each night your child should be practicing math facts. As a fourth grader, this should be multiplication and division facts. If your child has mastered these basic facts, s/he should be completing some higher-level multiplication or division problems.
- Math homework is very common in fourth grade. Your child should be prepared for the homework; if there are problems and you cannot help him/her, please let us know.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- For individual reading see the “4th Grade Reading Requirements” page below.
- Your child should be reading for 30 minutes each night at home in order to reach his/her 10 book goal for the quarter.
- Spelling is individualized this year. Ask your child about the format, which will be explained in more detail at Back to School Night on September 1st. Each student must complete spelling points for the week (see pages 3-4 below). These points are due on Wednesday morning.
- We are focusing on the 6 Traits writing program this year. Students are currently in the process of writing a personal narrative while focusing on the “ideas” trait.

SCIENCE:

- Ecosystems will be our first focus for the year.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

- We are reviewing for the first couple weeks of school and will start learning about the Northeast after that.
- Throughout the year we will be focusing on different regions of the United States, learning states’ locations, capitals, and abbreviations. When we finish the regions, we will focus on Missouri history.

REMINDERS:

- Holey Hooley Golf Tournament – August 30th
- Back to School Night – September 1st at 7pm
 - All 4th grade will be in Ms. Wholey’s room
- No School – September 6th

(4th Grade Reading Requirements on next page...)

4th Grade Reading Requirements

This year in 4th grade your child will be expected to follow the guidelines listed below:

- Each student is required to read at least 40 books by the end of the school year. This has been broken down into 10 books each quarter.
- Each student is required to read from the following genres throughout the year. The book requirement for each genre is listed in parentheses:
 - Poetry Anthologies (5)
 - Traditional Literature (5)
 - Realistic Fiction (5)
 - Historical Fiction (2)
 - Fantasy (4)
 - Science Fiction (2)
 - Mystery (2)
 - Informational (4)
 - Biography, Autobiography, Memoir (2)
 - Chapter books of choice (9)
- The breakdown per quarter is:
 - 1st quarter – 10 books from at least 3 different genres
 - 2nd quarter – 10 more books from at least 6 different genres
 - 3rd quarter – 10 more books from at least 9 different genres
 - 4th quarter – 10 more books from all the genres
- Our goal is to promote a lifelong love of reading. Therefore we encourage students to read more than their 10 book goal per quarter; each student will start fresh at a new 10 book goal each quarter (i.e. – the student reads 12 books in a given quarter, s/he is still required to read at least 10 in the following quarter).
- Students are still required to take an AR test at the completion of each book they read. If the student has already read the book (we have talked about the joy of rereading a book), then s/he will be given an alternative activity to assess her/his understanding of the book. Please note, students may only reread 2 books per quarter.
- A Reading Log will be kept by each student. This will keep track of all the books read, start/end dates, difficulty level, genre, etc. In this log, each student will also keep reading responses that will be graded every two weeks. A copy of the rubric used to grade their responses can be found in the front of their reading log.
- Students will be given an individual AR reading range which they should use as a guide when selecting books. This range will be given to each student at the start of the quarter.

(Spelling Points on pages 3 and 4...)

Spelling Points

Please choose from this list of activities to complete to practice your spelling words. Each activity will be done on a separate piece of paper, and they will be stapled together when you turn them in on Wednesday. You may choose any of the activities, but **you must have 20 points by Wednesday**. All activities must include ALL the spelling words for the week.

1. Story/Letter **15 points**

Use all of the words in a short story or in the form of a letter. This story or letter must include complete sentences and make sense with our spelling words for the week. I will not accept simple sentences in place of a complete story or letter. Please underline each spelling word used within the story or letter.

2. Word Search **5 points**

Create and complete a word search. You may use the computer to create the word search. A website that will help you do this is <http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/WordSearchSetupForm.html>
You must also find the spelling words in your word search before turning in for full credit.

3. Practice Writing **5 points**

Write each word 3 times using a computer generated guide. Go to the website below to enter in your words. Trace the word guide given. Then, write the words three times each. This will only be accepted when it is done in your very best handwriting.
http://www.handwritingforkids.com/handwrite/manuscript/javascripts/_my8linetext.htm

4. ABC Order **5 points**

Write the spelling words in alphabetical order.

5. Spelling Sentences **10 points**

Write each spelling word in a sentence. Your sentences must make sense (including a subject and predicate) and must be *detailed*. You must underline the spelling word in each sentence.

6. Definitions **10 points**

Look up each spelling word in the dictionary and write its meaning.

7. Synonyms/Antonyms **5 points**

Use a thesaurus or a dictionary and list a synonym and antonym for each spelling word. If any of your spelling words don't have a synonym or antonym, you cannot choose this activity for the week.

8. Syllables **5 points**

Using a dictionary, divide each spelling word according to its syllables.

9. Parts of Speech **5 points**

Classify your spelling words into categories based on each word's part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, etc.)

10. Spelling Sentences **10 points**

Write sentences using the letters in each word (EX: tree = Tom really enjoys eggs.)

11. Colors **5 points**

Write your words in colored pencil. Use red for all of the vowels and blue for the consonants.

12. Print & Cursive **5 points**

Write each word in manuscript. Next to each one, write it again in cursive.

13. Spelling Collage **10 points**

Find each spelling word in a magazines, newspaper, etc. Cut it out and glue it to the paper.

14. Scrambled **5 points**

Have a parent write each word with the letters scrambled. Then unscramble the words.

15. Words Within a Word **10 points**

Write each spelling word. Next to each word, write at least 4 additional words (no more than 10) of at least three letters that can be spelled using the letters in the word. Example: Pickle – lick, pick, like, lip

16. Fractions **5 points**

Make a table with three columns. Write this week's spelling words in the first column. In the second column, write in fraction form the number of vowels in each word. Then write the number of consonants, in fraction form, in the third column. (Hint: you will need to know the total number of letters in each word before you can write the fractions) Example:

WORD	VOWELS	CONSONANTS
finger	2/6	4/6
small	1/5	4/5

In the example above, the word *finger* has six letters. Two of those letters, or 2/6 of the letters, are vowels, and four of the letters, or 4/6, are consonants.

17. Secret Code **10 points**

Write your spelling words in secret code. Challenge a parent or sibling to use the code to decode each word. Correct their work.

Example: glad= 7-12-1-4

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5	F=6
G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10	K=11	L=12
M=13	N=14	O=15	P=16	Q=17	R=18
S=19	T=20	U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24
Y=25	Z=26				

18. Math **10 points**

Which spelling word has the highest value? Which word has the lowest value? Do any words have an equal value? (Use the secret code to find a numeric value for each letter. Then add up the letter values. The sum is the value of the word.)

19. Song **10 points**

Write a song using all of your spelling words.

20. Hide 'n Seek **5 points**

Draw and color a picture. "Hide" all the words in the picture. Please do not color over the words.

21. Crossword Puzzle **15 points**

Create a crossword puzzle using all your spelling words. Solve the puzzle before turning it in.

22. Comic Strip **15 points**

Create a comic strip using all the spelling words. Underline each spelling word.