

August 26, 2009

Dear Fourth Grade Parents:

We are honored to have the privilege of teaching your fourth grade student this school year. The next nine months promise to be ones of excitement, discovery, and challenge as we guide these curious and motivated students to academic achievement in all subject areas.

The fourth graders will have Miss Fahey for Reading and Religion, Mrs. Sullivan for Math and Social Studies and Miss Tovey for Science and English. Handwriting will continue to be another focus of the fourth grade curriculum as the students will have the benefit of Miss Reimer's unparalleled instruction on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Fourth grade Math begins with a review of basic concepts and graphs. Regular flashcard practice of all four math operations, especially multiplication and division, would be extremely beneficial to all students on an on-going basis. We recommend you practice with your child several times a week. Fractions and decimals will be introduced in the third trimester. The Accelerated Math Program continues to be an important part of the Math curriculum. The fourth graders will have fifteen to twenty minutes of Math homework three to four times a week.

Our Reading curriculum in fourth grade is based on the Scott-Foresman series. This series was selected because it offers quality readings and a great variety of decoding, comprehension and vocabulary skills. In order to promote a personal reading habit and enhance comprehension skills, all students will be required to take eight Accelerated Reading tests per trimester.

English class will focus on an increased study of the parts of speech and punctuation through daily editing exercises. The students writing skills will also be enhanced through a variety of writing projects designed to increase their ability to write narratives, persuasion, comparison/contrast essays, and research reports. In order to gauge the student's writing progress, a writing folder will be maintained for each student. Various writing assignments from all classes will be kept in this file.

The Religion series provides a combination of engaging bible stories, profiles of saints, morality lessons and prayer to foster the spiritual development of every child. The series also focuses on the importance of family participation and provides suggested activities for the parents to be more involved in their children's religious education.

Science class this year will be broken down into five units. They are as follows: Graphing, The Animal Kingdom, The Human Body, and The Solar System and Space Travel. The children will be taught note taking skills in Science class. The tests will come directly from the notes that are taken in class. It will not be necessary for the Science book to come home when preparing for a test. However, if you would like a copy of the book at home, please contact Miss Tovey and she will arrange for one to be brought home.

Social Studies class will begin with a study of Illinois and Our Nation followed by a study of our United States regions. We also study our government and the fifty states as well as their capitals.

The technology component of our school includes e-mail as well as teacher blogs. We believe these services can help the parents and teachers communicate more effectively. You may e-mail us at [PSullivan@sjfschool.net](mailto:PSullivan@sjfschool.net) or [LFahey@sjfschool.net](mailto:LFahey@sjfschool.net) or [CTovey@sjfschool.net](mailto:CTovey@sjfschool.net). Each teacher will continue to initiate a personal blog this year to help keep the parents abreast of the fourth grade news. To access each teacher's blog, type in the following address: [http://\(teacher's last name\).sjfschool.net](http://(teacher's last name).sjfschool.net).

In Grade Four, we will continue the practice of sending a weekly student folder home on Friday. Please be sure to remove your child's papers and sign the weekly record sheet.

We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year with your student.

Sincerely yours,  
Miss Fahey  
Mrs. Sullivan  
Miss Tovey