

4th Grade Handbook 2021-2022

Teacher: Mrs. O'Rourke



Fabulous 4th Grade Parents:

Thank you for coming to NLA Parent Orientation. I am looking forward to working with you as a team educating your child. Both teachers and parents have the unique opportunity to have a positive effect on a child's life. Therefore, I feel it is extremely important that we work together to provide your child a quality education.

I encourage you to communicate with me as often as needed; especially if you have any questions or concerns. Our interaction is essential to your child's education—both academically and behaviorally. If you would like to discuss your child's progress with me, please email me or call the school office, and I will contact you as soon as possible. I will also be happy to set up an after-school conference with you. My email address is aorourke@newlifeschool.com.

Thank you, once again, for your involvement in the educational process. I am looking forward to working with you to make it an exciting school year.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Alys O'Rourke

Classroom Rules & Discipline Procedures

An important element of a good education is a quiet, distraction-free learning environment. I believe that life-long success depends greatly on self-discipline. Therefore, I have developed a classroom management plan that gives every student the opportunity to manage his/her own behavior. Your child deserves the most positive educational climate possible for academic, social, and spiritual growth. Therefore, students will adhere to four basic rules:

1. Follow directions the first time.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak or leave your seat.
3. Work quietly and do not disturb others.
4. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

To enforce positive behavior, our class will use a behavior bucks system. This system promotes positive behavior choices and encourages students to self-monitor their behavior. How does this work? During the course of the day, students have the opportunity to earn a behavior buck each time they are caught making positive behavior choices such as:

1. walking quietly in the halls
2. entering the classroom quietly
3. quietly completing their work
4. being kind to fellow classmates
5. not talking while the teacher is teaching a lesson
6. having good behavior at lunch

All earned behavior bucks will be deposited into the student's bank account daily. Every Friday, students will have the opportunity to go to our class store to buy coupons to use in the classroom or other small items like candy, school supplies, toys, etc.

Consequences

Conversely, inappropriate behavior causes the student to lose a behavior buck. Any student that does not earn 25 bucks during the week, will not be allowed to go to the class store on Friday. Students that lose behavior bucks will also have fewer bucks to purchase coupons or other items from our class store.

Communication

As previously stated, communication is vital to the success of your child's education. I encourage you to communicate with me as often as possible and I will communicate with you through the following methods:

Email

If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me. My email address is: aorourke@newlifeschool.com.

Daily Homework Sheet

You can check your child's daily behavior on the homework sheet. If you have any questions or concerns, you may write a note on this homework sheet or send me an email.

Friday Folders

Every Friday your child will bring home a folder with tests, quizzes, and important papers. Review each paper with your child. A parent must sign the tests and quizzes packet in the weekly Friday folder. Please return the signed tests and quizzes packet in the folder on Monday. Signing the tests and quizzes packet confirms that the parent has seen all the recorded grades for that week. You may keep all the other papers at home. A weekly note will also be in the Friday folder. This note will contain the test and quiz schedule for the next week and any other important classroom news.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be emailed to you every two weeks. Please contact me immediately if you have any questions or concerns.

Bloomz App

Another exciting line of communication between teacher and parents is the Bloomz app. This is an app for your phone or tablet to get updates on class activities, behavior, and class calendar. Parents will also be able to private message me on this app. Please check your email during the first week of school. I will invite all parents to join the 4th grade class on this app during that time.

Homework

At the beginning of each week, the students will receive a weekly homework assignment sheet. Each morning, the students will write all the daily homework on this sheet. Students will be given some class study hall time each day to complete this homework. Any assignments that are not finished during study hall time need to be completed as homework. I will put my initials next to any assignments that your child has already completed in class. Students will receive study sheets for science, history, and health tests and quizzes. Please check your child's homework binder for these study sheets. We also use the Quizlet app to help review.

On the homework assignment sheet, you will also be able to see how many behavior bucks your child has earned each day. Remember, your child should earn at least 5 bucks each day. Please check this daily and contact me immediately if you have any questions or concerns.

When your child finishes his/her daily homework, a parent or responsible adult should verify that the student has completed all assignments. If your child has completed his/her homework, please sign your initials in the appropriate signature box. If your child does not complete the assignments, please do not sign the signature box.

Homework will be checked daily at school. Students will receive bucks for completing homework. Homework will be considered incomplete if the assignment sheet is not initialed by an adult and/or the homework is not finished. If an assignment is turned in one day late, it will be half off the point value. An assignment will not be accepted more than one day late (unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher). If a student has 3 days of incomplete homework in one week, he/she will receive a detention. Please refer to the individual subject pages in this handbook to discover how completion of homework will contribute to the overall grade for each subject

Supply List

3 Pkgs. of Wide Rule Paper
A 3-Ring Binder (2")
1 Pkg. Expo Dry Erase Markers
3 Pkgs. of #2 pencils
1 Large Eraser 12"
Metric/Standard Ruler 2
Highlighters
Scissors
5 Glue Sticks
3 Large Boxes of Kleenex
Colored Pencils
1 Small Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
2 Boxes of Wet Wipes
Backpack (Large)
School Supply Box
Old Large T-shirt for Art
Bible (KJV)

Grading Scale

A 100-94
A- 93-92
B+ 91-89
B 88-86
B- 85-83
C+ 82-81
C 80-78
C- 77-76
D+ 75-73
D 72-70
D- 69-68
F 67-0

Daily Schedule

8:30-8:45	Morning Routine
8:45-9:00	Bible
9:00-9:30	Spelling
9:30-10:25	Math
10:25-10:50	Recess Break
10:50-11:50	Language
11:50-12:15	Lunch
12:15-12:40	Recess Break
12:40-1:15	History
1:15-1:45	Science
1:45-2:15	Reading
2:15-2:30	Penmanship
2:30-3:20	Study Hall
3:20-3:30	Pack Up
3:30	Dismissal

Special Schedule Changes

Music: Mon. & Wed. 1:35-2:05
PE: Thursday 1:20-1:50
Art: Friday 2:30-3:20

Honor Roll Requirements

"A" Honor Roll
Students must have a 92% cumulative average or better. No C's are permitted.

"B" Honor Roll
Students must have an 83% cumulative average or better. Only one "C" is permitted.

Snack Time

Every day we will have snack time during our morning math lesson. Students may bring a snack and a drink in a water bottle.

It must have a lid.

Class Parties

Periodically, we will take time to celebrate major holidays/events with a class party. Each student will be asked to bring an item for these parties (i.e. cookies, chips, drinks). A sign-up sheet will be posted the week prior to the celebration. **We ask that the food be pre-packaged.** We will also on occasion have a class party to celebrate an accomplishment (i.e. meeting a class goal). These will usually be short celebrations (at no expense to the parents).

Birthdays

If you would like to celebrate your child's birthday by sending a treat, you may do so. This treat will be served during lunch time. **We ask that the food be pre-packaged.** If your child has a summer birthday, you may choose if or when you would like to celebrate that birthday with the class. Please let me know the day before so that I can decorate the class for your child's birthday.

Fun Fridays

The last Friday of each month will be designated as a "Fun Friday". On these special days, we will do the following fun activities:

August: Marshmallow Day

September: Let's have a Ball!

October: Game Day

November: Fruity Tooty Party

December: Candy Cane Day

January: Coolest Party Ever

February: Minute to Win It

March: Bubble Gum Day

April: Glow in the Dark Party

May: Cinco de Mayo on May 5th and Hawaiian Luau on May 19th

Field Trips

All field trips have been postponed temporarily. We are anticipating taking a field trip later in the school year. I will let you know the details as soon as possible.

Bible

Textbook: The Holy Bible KJV

Memorization: In 4th grade, we memorize the books of the Bible. Each month students will also memorize Bible verses. At the end of the month, each student will have to quote the monthly scripture for a grade.

Here is a list of this year's Bible verses:

September: Proverbs 3:1-8

October: Proverbs 3:9-14

November: Proverbs 3:15-20

December: Proverbs 3:21-27

January: Proverbs 4:20-27

February: Proverbs 6:6-11

March: Proverbs 6:16-22

April: Proverbs 15:1-6

May: Review all previously memorized verses.

Bible Lessons: We cover many Bible stories and concepts throughout the year.

Chapel: NLA has a chapel service for grades K-5 every other Tuesday. During these chapel services, students have the opportunity to pray, worship God through songs, and listen to a guest speaker teach about the Bible.

Grading: The following will be used to determine the quarter grade:

½ Memorization

½ Participation

Arithmetic

Textbooks: Arithmetic 4, Students Tests and Speed Drills

Grading: One speed drill per week will be marked as a quiz. Quizzes and tests are given every other week.

The overall grade will be comprised of:

- 20% homework and daily work
- 40% quizzes and speed drills
- 40% tests

Pop quizzes: Pop quizzes will be given periodically throughout the school year. When students are given items to memorize such as measurements, they can expect a pop quiz over the material.

Concepts Covered: Review of all 4 processes, 2 and 3-digit multiplication, fractions, long division, area, perimeter, geometry, solving equations, measurements, and more.

Homework: Any math problems not completed during the allotted class time will be considered math homework.

Science/Health

Textbook: Understanding God's World/Developing Good Health

The 4th grade science and health curriculum is designed to study science the first three quarters of the school year and health the last quarter. Topics include insects, plants, birds, matter, sound, geology, oceanography, astrology, and the human body.

Tests and Quizzes: Science tests and quizzes are regularly scheduled throughout the first 3 quarters. Students will be issued 2 health tests and a final exam during the 4th quarter.

Grades: Grades are averaged at the end of each 9-week period. Quarter grades will be averaged in the following way:

- 20% Daily Work/Homework
- 20% Quiz Average
- 45% Test Average
- 15% Projects/Experiments

Language

Textbook: God's Gift of Language A

Tests and Quizzes: Tests are scheduled approximately every 2 or 3 weeks. Pop quizzes are regularly given. Some quizzes are exercises in the textbook and others are written by the teacher.

Grades: Grades are averaged at the end of each quarter using the following method:

20% Daily Work/Homework
20% Quizzes
60% Tests

Language Objectives:

- Recognize and write good sentences
- Recognize sentence fragments
- Recognize and write declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, and imperative sentences.
- Write friendly letters, thank you notes, and post cards
- Learn the writing process
- Use the encyclopedia
- Review all capitalization rules learned in 3rd grade, as well as learning additional rules
- Review all punctuation rules learned in 3rd grade, along with learning additional rules
- Enjoy creative writing
- Master subjects and predicates
- Recognize and use all 8 parts of speech
- Diagramming subjects, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs
- Use a dictionary
- Make subjects and verbs agree
- Use troublesome words

History

Textbooks: The History of Our United States Geography/Maps and Reviews,
My State Notebook

Grades: Grades are averaged at the end of each quarter using the following method:

20% Homework/Daily Work

20% Quiz Average

45% Test Average

15% Projects

History Overview: - Students will learn how the United States of America came to be a nation, who its famous people have been, and what important events have taken place in its history.

- The Skills Sheets are designed for reviewing the geographical information presented in the textbook.

- Students will learn the 50 states and capitals throughout the year and will be tested during the second semester.

- Students become familiar with historical documents. They will also learn the names and order of the U.S. Presidents.

- Students will learn all about the state of Missouri and make a "State Notebook".

Tests and Quizzes: Students will be given at least 1 or 2 quizzes per week. Tests are typically given over 2 chapters at a time. Students may use the Quizlet app to study.

Reading

Textbooks:	Salute to Courage	Flags Unfurled
	Read & Think 4 Skill Sheets	Song of the Brook
	Liberty Tree	Trails to Explore
	Adventures in Other Lands	Saved at Sea

Grading:	50% Oral Reading Grade
	25% Quizzes (Adventures in Other Lands; Read & Think)
	25% Book Reports

Oral Reading Grades: Each student will receive one oral reading grade per week. The following qualities will determine oral grades: accuracy, fluency, expression, and the use of strategies. The oral reading grading scale is as follows:

A (+,-) Students who demonstrate excellent ability in all areas of oral reading.

B (+,-) Students who demonstrate above average ability in oral reading but may need to work on one or two specific qualities.

C (+,-) Students who demonstrate average ability in oral reading and may need to work on several specific qualities.

D (+,-) Students who must sound out several words, and must reread several times before new reading is acceptable.

F (+,-) Students who are having extreme difficulty in all areas of reading.

Speed and Comprehension Quizzes: Beginning at the end of the 1st quarter, one speed and comprehension quiz will be given each week from Adventures in Other Lands.

Book Reports: Each month, students will be assigned a book report. Two of the book reports assigned will be from Song of the Brook and Saved at Sea. The other book reports will be from books the student chooses or the teacher assigns. The book must have a minimum of 50 pages. A variety of book reports (written, projects, oral, etc.) will be assigned throughout the year. An evaluation grade sheet will be sent home after each book report with the letter grade earned.

Vocabulary Quizzes: During the 4th quarter, students will be quizzed weekly over a given set of vocabulary words found in the assigned daily reading.

Spelling

Textbook: Spelling, Vocabulary, and Poetry 4

This book contains weekly spelling lists, selected poetry, and a glossary of vocabulary words.

Spelling Objectives:

- To teach the spelling of many words
- To help students learn to use words correctly in their spoken and written language.
- To teach spelling rules that will enable students to spell many more words than those in the weekly lists

Spelling Lists: We begin with 25 words on the spelling list each week and build to 30 words. The last 5 to 10 words are vocabulary. Students must learn how to spell each vocabulary word, what each definition is, and how to use the word in a sentence.

Spelling Tests: Students will be tested on their mastery of spelling words on a new list every week. Tests will include dictated sentences along with each spelling and vocabulary word and definition on the weekly list.

Spelling Homework: Students will usually be assigned spelling homework every day. It is an excellent habit for students to study a few spelling words each night.

Spelling Grades: 20% Homework and 80% Weekly Tests

A great website to help your child practice weekly spelling words is www.spellingcity.com. Check it out or use the Quizlet app.

Penmanship

Textbooks: Penmanship Mastery I

Penmanship Daily Work: Penmanship pages will be completed on a regular basis.

Writing Projects: Students will complete 1-2 writing projects each week, ranging from paragraphs to graphic organizers to essays or writing stories.

Testing: Penmanship tests will be given every Wednesday. Tests will be graded on the following:

1. Correct letter formation
2. Uniform size
3. Correct spacing
4. Letters touching the line
5. Overall neatness
6. Correctly copy test

Test Grading Scale:

A, A-: All of the above qualities are evident.

B (+,-): Most of the qualities are evident, with a few minor errors.

C (+,-): Some of the qualities are evident, with several mistakes.

D (+,-): The paper has many mistakes.

F: The paper is unsatisfactory.

Grading: 50% Weekly Tests
50% Writing Project

History

Textbooks: The History of Our United States Geography/Maps and Reviews
My State Notebook

Grades: Grades are averaged at the end of each quarter using the following method:

20% Homework/Daily Work

20% Quiz Average

45% Test Average

15% Projects

History Overview: - Students will learn how the United States of America came to be a nation, who its famous people have been, and what important events have taken place in its history.

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