
Important Information

Appointments

I want to be available to you as a parent for discussion or clarification. If you would like to speak with me at anytime, please feel free to send a note, call or text me by phone, or email me. My school email is lgentry@parkwaychristian.org and my mobile phone number is 248-930-0575. I will check my email before and after school each day, responding as soon as I have a break or after school. Emails may not be monitored during classroom instruction time. My availability for a conference before or after school may be dependent upon a prearranged appointment.

Homework

Students can expect homework Monday through Thursday. I'll try to avoid Wednesdays, as I know this is often a busy night for church families. On the occasion there is no specific homework it would be a good idea to study ahead for upcoming tests or review spelling words or scripture memory. If homework is not turned in the next day, the grade may be reduced by 10%. If a family situation has occurred and there is a reasonable excuse for homework not to be completed and turned in, please send a written excuse and grade reduction can be avoided. I'm sure that as we work together your child will be able to grow in responsibility and develop good study habits. Following is a suggested homework schedule.

Monday	Review multiplication facts for drills on Tuesday.
Tuesday	Review spelling words for Practice Test on Wednesday Review "Wednesday's Word"
Thursday	Review scripture memory and spelling words as needed for Friday

This is merely a suggestion for review work as homework.

Online Grades

Your child's progress in school is continually available to you through the posting of their grades online. This will also help to notify you of missing work. Grades will normally be posted within 24 hours of submission with the exception of make-up work and projects. Your password to access their grades is available through the office. Report cards will be available quarterly, but your child's progress is always available to you online.

Friday Folders

This will be the major source of information on how your child is doing in school. Please review their papers and send the folder back on Monday. Look for the available box for you to initial indicating you have reviewed your child's papers. Also, look for an included Parent Letter explaining upcoming tests and classroom information.

Book It

There is a reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut, which begins in October. Fourth graders will need to read enough books each month to reach a goal of 150 pages. I encourage Bible reading and will give credit at the rate of 10 book pages for every Bible chapter read.

School Supplies

Space in the desks is limited, so "extra" supplies often add to confusion. Please refer to the school supply list for what is actually needed. Also, no toys are allowed in the classrooms or desks. If toys are brought to school they must stay in their lockers until recess time.

School Subjects

Please watch the Friday Folder for Test Schedules and other important information.

In all subjects students will consistently and intentionally be taught a Biblical worldview.

Math

The Math program encourages parent involvement. We will be using a textbook this year, and students will have homework each night. They will be using a "grid answer sheet" (I will provide), which will help prepare them for notebook use in the 5th grade and beyond. Students will have time in class to complete a portion of the homework. Different children complete different amounts, but all will be expected to take it home for completion and review. There will be a Math Test usually after every five to ten lessons.

Multiplication/Division Tests/Drills - Students will begin right away taking timed multiplication drills each Tuesday beginning with 0's and 1's. They will need 95% accuracy to move on to the next drill. They will need 100% on the final multiplication drill (0's - 10's) to move on to division. Quick recall of multiplication facts is crucial to other Math concepts such as long division, fractions, and algebra.

To help challenge and practice problem-solving strategies, students will complete a Math "warm-up" each day. This paper also reflects the concept taught for the day. These papers are discussed together in class and should come home in the Homework Folder.

Spelling

Students will write their spelling words for the week on Monday and take the list home to study. This paper is also often used as a penmanship grade. On Wednesday they will be given a pretest. If they pass the test with a 100% spelling and correct syllable division, they do not have to take the test on Friday and earn a free time. The Spelling Program requires the students to write their words with syllable division. Only the pretest will require syllable division.

Purposes for dividing Spelling Words in syllables:

1. Studying words letter by letter causes a short-lived retention, while studying by syllables aids in long-term retention.

2. It enhances their knowledge of phonics, making them better spellers and readers.
3. It aids in their understanding of word etymology (the history, language, and meaning from which the word originated).

Note: If you find the Spelling Words are too frustrating or difficult for your child, we will work together to reduce the amount of words required. Please email or send a note if you think the reduced option is best for your student.

English

Fourth grade students will be using the Shurley English textbook. This in-depth curriculum systematically introduces students to parts of speech (grammar), classifying sentences, and continued practice in editing. Fourth graders will build upon the “jingles” learned in third grade (songs and sayings to help them memorize grammar rules) as well as adding to their learning. These jingles are in the textbook, but may also be found on YouTube by simply referring to Shurley English Jingles.

Language Arts - Writing/Composition

One of the main goals and purposes of fourth grade Language Arts is to enhance and develop good writing skills. The students will also keep a personal journal in class. We will also explore various components of creative writing and poetry. This will help them to organize their thoughts and feelings and communicate them on paper. The students will soon begin learning to write a report. Look for information and guidelines coming soon in the Friday Folder. Their writing process will culminate in the writing of a state research report in the spring.

Social Studies

Students will be learning about the different regions of the United States - beginning with the east coast and moving west. They will learn about the climate, geography, manufacturing, and places of interest in each region. They will also do map work involving the geography of the United States. Civics, government, and economics will also play a part in their overall instruction. In the spring, students will choose a state to research.

Reading

The emphasis in Reading will be on vocabulary, comprehension (literal and inferential), and writing good complete sentences to show their comprehension of the reading assignment. We will also explore a variety of strategies to enhance and solidify comprehension. We will also be implementing DIBELS - a program to enhance speed and fluency. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Accelerated Reader, a program that encourages reading and comprehension on their individual level.

Following is a list of books we will be choosing from to read as a class throughout the year: Island of the Blue Dolphins, Pilgrim's Progress, The Biography of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Popper's Penguins, and Top Secret.

“Wednesday’s Word” - It is also my desire to expand the vocabulary of your fourth grader. In addition to vocabulary work in content areas, we will also be concentrating on one word per week. This word will be used at school (and hopefully at home). Students will need to know the definition of the word, part of speech, and be able to use it in a sentence.

Science

Learning about God’s wonderful creation from the tiny cell to the outer planets is my joy and delight to teach. We will often take a “hands on” approach. Each unit will allow for inquiries, exploration, or use of the scientific method in experimentation.

Bible

The students will study the Bible in an in-depth manner, learning and understanding the importance of God’s Word. This year we will begin with Creation in Genesis, as well as highlighting a few New Testament accounts of the life of Jesus. Learning will involve classroom activities, skits, and discussion.

Scripture Memory

Students will have a required scripture to recite by the end of each month. (See enclosed Scripture List.) I will fill out a form indicating their completion or areas to review - look for these in the homework folder as well as the Friday Folder.

Students will also be given an optional scripture each week to memorize based on the Biblical Standard for that week. These verses can be found on the Parent Letter each week.

Handwriting

Students will have cursive practice, which concentrates on letter formations and connection.

Individualized Learning

Students in fourth grade will be using these online resources as part of their learning:

- **Freckle** - A differentiation platform where students automatically work on the Math, ELA, Social Studies, and Science lessons that are perfect for them to help engage and challenge.
- **Khan Academy** - After students are tested in the fall they can link with assignments to help improve areas of weakness and move on to be challenged individually in new areas for math and ELA.
- **Read Works** - Differentiated reading instruction with high quality tests and lessons that promote skills and comprehension. Logins will be made available for students to work on these at home as well as at school.