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. Please don't hesitate to ask a quick question or make a clarification at any time.

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 5% beginning second quarter. 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
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.

Phones / Watches

Phones and watches with texting ability will need to remain in the student's backpack during school hours.

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 curriculum we will be using this year is envision Mathematics. Each lesson opens with an engaging problem for students to use their analytical skills to discuss and share solution strategies. This will be followed by a lesson for the day using a variety of formats to involve students in learning and practice. Students will have homework each day (none on Wednesday or Friday) that includes a workbook page, additional practice sheet, or topic review pages to prepare for a test. We will begin these in class, so the amount to complete at home will vary among students. Regardless, all will be reminded to take these home for completion/review and returned the next day for grading. Each Math Chapter/Topic will include a small project involving data collection, graphing, and creating diagrams.

To help promote retention in Math skills, students will complete a Daily Review sheet each morning. This will be graded together in class and will not be part of the homework assignment.

Multiplication/Division 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 - 12's) to move on to division. Quick recall of multiplication facts is crucial to other Math concepts such as long division, fractions, and algebra.

Writing/Composition

One of the main goals and purposes of fourth grade Language Arts is to enhance and develop good writing skills. 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 in this Parent Packet. Students will also complete a "Daily Writing Ready" assignment each day to enrich and support their writing skills. Their writing process will culminate in the writing of a state research report in the spring.

English

In fourth-grade English, students will build confidence as readers, writers, and communicators through the Shurley English program. They will strengthen their grammar, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, vocabulary, and writing skills while learning to analyze sentences and apply these concepts in their own work.

Spelling

Students will write their spelling words for the week on an assignment sheet on Monday and take the list home to study. 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. Spelling words are always available on mrsgentry.com. During the beginning weeks of school we will work together to pinpoint a reasonable and workable number of words for your child.

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 and concepts to enhance and solidify comprehension. 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, Top Secret, and Paddle-to-the-Sea.

Bible

Our fourth-grade Bible class helps students grow in their knowledge of God's Word and their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Through the ACSI Bible curriculum, students will explore key Bible stories and truths, learn how God's Word applies to everyday life, and develop Christlike character. As they study Scripture, memorize Bible verses, and participate in meaningful discussions, students will be encouraged to strengthen their faith and live out biblical principles both at school and at home.

Science

We will be using the textbook Purposeful Design which relates to the creative work of God. Each chapter weaves together the wonders of the created world and a biblical worldview. 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.

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. These monthly scriptures are considered a "test" grade.

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. Since these verses are optional, students will be given extra credit for memorization and an award at the end of the year if they memorize all of them.

Handwriting

Students will continue developing neat, fluent cursive handwriting using the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting workbook. Through regular practice, they will improve letter formation, spacing, and writing speed while building confidence in using cursive for everyday writing. Strong handwriting skills help students communicate clearly and take pride in presenting their best work.