

Dear Rising Fourth Grade Students and Parents,



Welcome to Fourth Grade!!! I am so excited to be working with you! We plan to work hard, but also have fun. This is my fourth year working at Saint Michael's and my 17th year in Catholic Education. I love all grades, but the upper elementary, including fourth grade tend to be my favorite.

I graduated from Notre Dame of Maryland University with a degree in liberal studies, elementary education, and special education. I then quickly followed this degree with my Master's in Administration and Supervision, while I served in a Catholic Service Program named Operation TEACH.

While, I do not have any children to call my very own, I do have eleven nieces and nephews that live in the area and they are the biggest reason I moved to Myrtle Beach four years ago. I also have two brothers that live in the area and love being surrounded by family. Being close to my family also enhances my faith life because I am often able to take my nieces and nephews to church with me. I enjoy seeing the love in their eyes during Mass. My personal faith journey is what grounds me each day and allows me to serve children. I have a special devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, and pray each day that she removes the obstacles that challenge our faith.

Learning and exploring studies need to be presented in various forms. Our children are not all the same, and therefore do not learn all the same way. I believe that children should be challenged at their own level. You will hear your children and myself talking about "Growth Mindset." This is the idea that all children need to be moving forward and both the teacher and student are responsible for achieving growth in all areas including self-discipline, spiritual lives, and academic subjects.

In Math this year we will focus on a variety of concepts. We will begin the year with place value, review addition and subtraction, as well as multiplication and division. We will also work on fractions and decimals. The students will be introduced to geometric concepts, such as area, perimeter, and volume. It is VERY important that your child comes into fourth grade with a recall of their basic multiplication facts (up to 12). They should be reviewing these daily over the summer. I will begin the year with timed tests weekly.

In Reading this year the students will read various novels, such as James and the Giant Peach and Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, to name a few. I loved sharing these great novels with students in the past. The students will participate in various projects both at home and at school in relation to our readings. Your child will also be given a weekly reading log to track their reading throughout the year.

In Science the students will learn about motion, simple and complex machines, and electricity. Through hands on learning, interactive notebooks, and readings, students will master basic scientific concepts.

In Social Studies we will begin the year by discussing basic map concepts. We will discuss the settlement of the 13 colonies, and will work our way through the formation of the U.S. Government, Westward Expansion, and factors that contributed to the start of the Civil War.

Students should continue to review their multiplication facts this summer. They should also continue to read for enjoyment over the summer, as reading is VERY important to me. The more students read and are able to comprehend what they read, the more they will succeed. Listed below are some great websites the students can work with this summer, to keep their skills strong and their learning fresh. Please also see the attached summer reading letter to work on over the summer months. Please be sure to read this PRIOR to the start of the new school year.

I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing summer and I look forward to working with you all.

Sincerely,

Ms. Pamela Walters
4th Grade Teacher

Recommended Education Websites:

Coolmath.com

Sumdog.com

Abcya.com (for fourth grade)

Starfall.com

Recommended strategies for studying multiplication facts:

Flashcards

Having students rewrite their facts daily (3x each)

Weekly timed quizzes

Interactive websites that review facts

CD/videos that repeat facts (multiplication song CDs can be found at our local Teacher's Touch store)

Skip counting (songs can be found on YouTube)

***Most importantly, have a wonderful and FUN summer! Enjoy time with your family, go outside and play, and stay safe! I'll see you in August!!! :)

Summer Reading Letter:

Keeping reading skills alive through the summer is an important part of being prepared for the next grade level. Studies have shown that students who are engaged in summer reading will begin the school year at a higher level than those who do not. Furthermore, reading fun stories keeps the students excited about reading. This summer, those students in the upper grades, (4th - 8th) will have assigned summer reading.

Students should spread out this reading throughout the summer. This shouldn't be a burden, but something that will supplement regular reading at home over the summer. The students will read two novels to prepare for the 4th grade novel studies that will occur throughout the school year.

The first is **Bunnacula by Deborah and James Howe**. This is a fun story that the whole family may enjoy.. **Students should read the novel and complete two activities:**

- 1) Vocabulary Study: Pick 15-20 words that are either new to you or are tricky words to remember the meaning. Look these words up in a dictionary and write the definition and use each in a sentence.
- 2) Create a 3-D depiction of a scene from the novel. This can be created using a diorama, poster board, clay, or other materials! Be creative!!

The second novel is a free choice that needs to be a **historical fiction or nonfiction story relating to our social studies units**. It can feature the founding of the New World, Life in the Colonies, the Declaration of Independence, the American Revolution, slavery, events leading to the Civil War. Some suggestions are the series: Dear America books, My America books, and My Name is America (various authors). You may also choose Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence by Russell Freedman. **Students should write a short (3-5 paragraph) report about the book chosen.**

Please know that I will periodically check my email, so if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at pwalters@saintmichaelsc.com.

Please have a blessed summer filled with lots of opportunities for making memories, family time and outdoor adventures.

Blessings and Peace,

Ms. Pamela Walters
4th Grade Teacher



Fourth Grade School Supply List 2018-2019

- 1 - 1 and a ½ inch binder (preferably plain white portfolio style) labeled with name
- 4 - one subject spiral notebooks
- 3 - composition notebooks
- 3 - packs of wide ruled paper
- 1 - package of erasers
- 3 - boxes of number 2 pencils
- 2 - red pens
- 2 - erasable pens (blue or black)
- 2 - sets of colored dry erase markers (Expo brand preferred)
- 1 - folder with pockets (labeled with name/take home folder)
- 1 - folder with pockets (labeled with name/unfinished work)
- 1 - index card box
- Multiple sets of blank index cards (will be used all year long)
- 1 - box of crayons, colored pencils, and markers (labeled with names)
- 1 - pencil case labeled with name (please put markers, crayons, and colored pencils in pencil case before your child comes to school)
- 1 - set of highlighters
- 1 - pair of scissors
- 10 - glue sticks
- 3 - containers of Lysol wipes
- 4 - boxes of tissues
- 3 - rolls of paper towels
- 1 - container of paper or plastic plates
- 1 - container of plastic knives
- 1 - container of paper or plastic cups

****Reminder: There is a \$40 Art fee for supplies payable to St. Michael Catholic School****