

Welcome to back to school night!
2019-2020 Theme: Believe and see the glory of God

I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you this school year. Below is an outline of the information we will be talking about tonight. Most of the matters discussed below, the students and I have already gone over. If at any time you have questions please don't hesitate to ask.

Contact information

-My school e-mail is dhartley@sjbdel.org. I will check this email daily.

-My school extension is 221. This is exclusively voicemail. You would need to leave a message for me to return your call.

- My preference is that you e-mail me or send a handwritten note, at least initially, to let me know we need to touch base. It is much easier for me to e-mail throughout the day. If you e-mail me that we need to speak, I will get in touch with you most likely before the end of the day, but at most within 24 hours.

School-wide goal: Reverence, Respect, Responsibility- It is our goal that all members of our school community be instruments of peace. Additionally, to encourage this atmosphere each month we focus on a Franciscan Value.

Student Walker Directions

"For the security of all children, you must either be a Milltown car rider in the front lot or a Limestone car rider in the back lot. Only students designated as walkers should be in the walker's line. If you decide to park elsewhere and not on school property, we cannot be responsible for your child's safety if you are late picking them up. We provide that needed security in our parking lots."

Materials

-Students will need: a pencil case, pencils (#2), 1 pack cap erasers, 3 red pens, 2 highlighters, (Blue or black pens are not needed until 5th grade.), glue stick, small scissors, and 1 small box of crayons or colored pencils.

-Students will also need: 1- 8 pocket folder spiral bound, 1 yellow, 1 orange, and 1 green plastic two pocket folder with prongs, 7 non-spiral (marble) notebooks, 1 pack of loose-leaf paper, 2 packs 3X5 index cards, 2 boxes of Kleenex, and 1 container of sanitizing wipes. No binders please.

-Occasionally throughout the year, your child may need to replenish supplies. Please check in with them routinely to make sure they have what they need each day.

Our Classroom Rules, Rewards, and Consequences

Our rules/ rewards are clearly posted in our classroom and will remain all year. We will continue to use calendars this year to communicate daily with you. I ask that you make a point to look at it every day. Each Friday you need to sign your child's calendar for the week acknowledging that you have seen it. I will check for signatures each Monday. As I have shared with the students, it is my belief that the focus in the room should be on the positive achievements that each of the children are making. To really work on this, we have decided again this year to use a classroom management system called Class Dojo. It is a system where students earn points for target behaviors individually as well as collectively as a class, to work toward rewards of various kinds. The following are the guidelines for your reference.

Rules

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Listen when others are talking.
3. Raise your hand to speak or leave your seat.
4. Respect yourself, others, and our school.
5. Make smart choices

Rewards

1. Positive verbal praise
2. Class Dojo points and rewards
(ex; Positive notes and/or phone calls home, earned student/class privileges, etc.)

Consequences

1. Warning
Severe clause go immediately to #5
2. Loss of dojo points and/or seat moved
3. Written note/phone call home
4. Go to the principal

General Schedule

We are a self-contained classroom, which is much easier for students and much more flexible academically. They will travel as a homeroom and will be with me all day, except for their special classes. Each child has received a copy of his/her schedule. I have attached a copy for you as well. The subjects are briefly outlined below. The students have labels that contain all of their passwords for the various online texts in the front of their assignment book. Please take the time to look over the websites. They offer many valuable resources. They can all be accessed from my web page.

~Language Arts~ We will continue to use the reading series, *Wonders* this year. The login page can be found at <https://my.mheducation.com/login>. We will do small group work in Language Arts with each unit. It is important that the students spend some time reading every day. Please encourage your child to read a variety of genres and types of text. Please check in with them regularly via their reading log and see the attached handout on the Accelerated Reading Requirements. Please make sure to sign and return that form acknowledging you understand the requirements as well.

~Math~ This is our fifth year with the My Math series. The math textbook can also be found at <https://my.mheducation.com/login>. The main focus in fourth grade continues to be multiplication as well as long division and fractions. It is *imperative* that students memorize their multiplication facts. When completing assignments in class, at home, and on tests **all work must be shown. Not showing work will result in point deductions.**

~Social Studies~ This is our first year with our new series, My World Interactive. The textbook can be found at <https://www.pearsonrealize.com/index.html#/> Our major topics will still include Delaware history and the regions of the United States.

~Science~ <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/ePC/start.do>. This is our third year with the updated Fusion Science series so the students should still be fairly familiar with the routines. We will cover a variety of topics and will participate in virtual as well as hands on labs.

~Religion~ This is our third year with the new religion series, We Believe, by Sadlier. Although we will cover many topics, our big focus will be the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments. The book is not online, however, there are resources including practice tests at the following link.
<https://religion.sadlierconnect.com/wbcid>

Chromebooks

- Parents please take time to familiarize yourself with your child's Google Classroom.
- Please be patient with us as well, remembering that this is the first year that fourth grade is one to one. It will take some time for the students to adjust.
- It is imperative that chromebooks are fully charged each day so that students do not get behind.
- Earbuds must be brought to school every day.

Homework Policy

- Each student has a daily assignment book. All of their assignments will be recorded there each day. Please make a point to check it each evening. Not only so that you know what is going on, but also to make sure that your child is using it appropriately.
- The students will have approximately 45 minutes of homework each evening Monday through Thursday. Generally students will not have homework on Friday; however there will be times when it is necessary in order to stay on schedule.
- Homework will always be a reinforcement of something we have worked on in school. Students will never have new uncovered material for homework. For this reason, homework should be independent work and credit will be given for trying.
- If a student is absent he/she is responsible for coming to see me for missed assignments.
- Each marking period the students will begin with a homework grade of 100%. If the students do not turn in their homework, 5 points will be deducted from this grade. Again, the credit is given for trying not correctness, however, it is important that they put in effort to follow directions etc. to receive full credit.
- If a student misses homework, it will be noted on their calendar. The calendar will need to be signed by you signifying that you are aware they did not complete their homework. If there is a continuous issue of not completing assignments, I will call home so that we can discuss it.

Late Policy –

- Students are expected to complete work in a timely manner. Students must keep up with the due date. Late assignments will result in a five point deduction per day late.

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on the following:

- Tests (chapter or lesson) and/or projects and writing assignments (50%)
- Quizzes (announced or unannounced) (40%)
- Class work, effort and participation (10%) (See rubric)
- Homework (credit is given for trying/ included in quiz grades)

Test/Graded Work Policy

- ***Cheating will not be tolerated. (This includes any talking during a test.) Parents will be notified and a significant point deduction (10 pts.) will be taken from the student's score.
- Students who are absent will be given sufficient time to make up the work and study.
- Most tests will be sent home to be looked over, with the exception of the reading tests. Any grade of 84 and below will need to be signed and returned.
- Graded tests, quizzes, and projects will be available on Powerschool within a week of their due date to the best of my ability. Occasionally due to the length of a writing assignment it may take a few extra days as they take much longer to grade.

Notes / Study Skills

- Fourth grade begins the transition from learning to read to reading to learn.
- During this year, students will learn how to take notes. They must keep an organized notebook throughout the year. Their notebook will be a great study guide for a test.
- It is important that students begin to learn study skills this year. Ex.} daily review, making flashcards, etc.
- The Quizlet app is a great resource. ****I give Dojo points for handwritten flashcards made by the students.****

Assignment Policies

- All assignments must be completed in pencil.
- All final products must be completed in cursive. After the first trimester all work is to be done in cursive.
- All assignments should be done neatly or I will ask that they be redone.
- The computer may be used, however, there will be no extra time given.

Birthday/Holiday Celebrations

- Feel free to send in an item for your child's birthday. I ask that whatever you send is **nut free** if at all possible and is individually wrapped with the ingredients listed. This is for several reasons. First, we do have allergies to consider in our classroom. Second, we usually have snack around 9:00-9:15. Rather than the children filling up on sweet treats this early we will allow the birthday child to pass out his/her snack, but I may ask the children to save the snack until dessert after their lunch.
- Summer birthday treats may be brought to our end of the year picnic.
- Please do not send birthday invitations to school to be handed out. These should be mailed or handled outside of school
- Holiday celebrations will focus on what the holiday represents and will remain low key. The homeroom mom will coordinate these events.

Miscellaneous

- We will have snack every day. Please send in healthy snacks and a small drink.
- The lunch program will continue to take place in the hall.
- Students should have a silent reading book in their desks at all times.

Helpful hints:

- Encourage independence whenever possible. Teach your child to search for answers independently.
- It is ok for your child to fail or mess up once in awhile. That's how we learn.
- Handling consequences is a life skill they all need.
- If something doesn't sound right, it's probably not. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have a question.
- Please leave all papers in your child's folder until your child lets you know I told them we were done with it.
- Keep in mind that I am evaluating the whole student. This not only includes how they perform on assessments, but how they follow directions, interpret questions, work independently, etc.

Papers to be filled out:

- Parent/Guardian information sheet
- ARreading requirement parent signature tear off
- Class Dojo invite
- Message to your child on his/her desk
- AUP signature page and/or covenant if we don't already have it
- Below signature page acknowledging receipt of this packet

(Please detach and return)

2019-2020 – 4th Grade, Mrs. Hartley
Please return by September 16, 2019.

I understand the procedures and guidelines for my child in fourth grade.

Student Name

Parent Signature