



August 23rd, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Fourth Grade!

### **A Little About Me**

My name is Kerri Finley, and this will be my second year teaching at St. Dorothy's School. I graduated from West Chester University with a degree in Grades 4 through 8 Education and a minor in Literacy. Teaching fourth grade has been a dream come true, and I cannot wait to share my love for learning with your children. I attended Catholic school from Kindergarten through 12th grade and have a true passion for Catholic education. It is extremely important to me that your child feels comfortable and welcomed in my classroom. I appreciate all of your time and support as we begin our new school year! I know this year will be different than previous years, but I am confident we will get through it successfully!

### **Communication is Key**

Clear and open communication is an important part of your child's success.

1. **Email.** I will send important reminders/monthly updates by email. The email will contain important information for each month, but some weekly emails may also be necessary. Do not hesitate to contact me! My email is [kfinley@stdots.com](mailto:kfinley@stdots.com)
2. **Website.** All important events, homework, forms, etc. can be found on my website under the St. Dot's classrooms tab. We are room **4A**. In the event that we need to go to virtual learning, our class will use Google Classroom. I will go through this with your children the first week of school to familiarize them with it. All students have a username and password for google classroom.
3. **Student Agenda.** Your child will have an agenda/homework book to record general assignments and reminders. Please check in with your child to make sure he or she has completed the assigned work each night. Homework will also be posted on my website, which can be accessed through our school site.

### **Responsive Classroom**

Our day begins with a morning meeting. We will start with a prayer followed by any classroom business. This meeting gives students a chance to share and listen to each other about important events or topics for each day. From day to day, the

format varies. The purpose of a responsive classroom is to create an environment that fosters a strong and supportive community of learners.

### **Student of the Week**

Students will sign up for a week to be Student of the Week. They will be “interviewed” by their classmates on Wednesday morning during morning meeting. They will be asked questions about their favorite things such as hobbies, games, school subjects, color or careers. There is no at-home work needed for this.

### **What are we learning this year?**

**Math:** *Students must practice times tables every night in order to be successful this year.* Printable multiplication flash cards are on my St. Dot’s website classroom page. Our math curriculum focuses on the four operations, place value, fractions, measurement and geometry.

**Social Studies:** The entire year is dedicated to the study of Pennsylvania. We begin with understanding the location of Pennsylvania in relation to neighboring states, the United States and the continent of North America. Students will examine the land features of our state, the very early Native Americans, and the development and growth of PA as a colony. Students will complete a Pennsylvania State Project—details to follow.

**Science:** See Mrs. Jaeger’s note

**Language Arts:** Reading and writing are present throughout every subject. We will continue to develop comprehension and fluency skills. We will also explore various types of writing including narrative and opinion pieces.

**Religion:** We will continue to practice and learn about our faith by learning more about the Commandments, saints, prayer, sacraments, the liturgical year and more.

### **Technology:**

Information is in the Parental Permission Form for technology use in the classroom.

I hope this information is helpful. I am committed to your child enjoying a successful fourth grade and I am looking forward to working with your child this year!

Respectfully,  
Miss Finley