



## **Class Syllabus**

### **Grade 4**

### **2016-2017**

What an exciting year this will be for students, parents, and teacher! It will be a year of challenges that result in a wonderful and noticeable difference in the children. Fourth grade is a year when we see tremendous growth in levels of independence and maturity. We are looking forward to a great year with all of you!

**Report Cards:** Report cards will be given out four times a year, every nine weeks. You will get progress reports every three weeks, twice each term. This will allow time for any problems that occur to be corrected before the actual grade is given.

**Homework:** The children can expect daily homework in Math, Spelling, and Reading. The reading will usually be to read for their AR requirements. Occasionally there will be a long-term project, but we try to make these far in advance in order to teach the self-discipline of working a little each night rather than all at the last minute. The math homework will usually consist of the Study Links, review of lessons covered, and math facts. We try to make the homework short and to the point. If you find your child is spending more than 45 minutes nightly on homework, please let us know so that we can look into it.

**Expectations:** All class work should be completed in class. If a child is working to the best of his ability and still does not complete his work, he will be allowed to finish during break that day or the next. In some cases, the work will be sent home to be finished. All homework should be turned in on time. There are times when the unexpected happens, and the homework just can't get done..... a note from a parent will really help in those situations. Binders with graded papers will be sent home weekly. Please review the papers for the week with your child and then sign and date the binder. If you see mistakes in grading, please feel free to draw our attention to them. If you see a paper that makes you proud, please let your child know.

## **Curriculum:**

**Reading:** Our reading program is focused on promoting a love for reading as well as recognizing and learning the strategies and skills necessary for becoming knowledgeable, independent readers. We will be using a basal text, novel units, and the Accelerated Reading Program. At the beginning of each nine weeks, a reading syllabus will be sent home that explains the Reading requirements for the nine-week period.

**Math:** Again we will be using the Everyday Math Program. Study Links will be sent home nightly. These are designed to enhance parent-school communication and provide an opportunity for you to work with your child on the skills covered in the unit. It is important for these Study Links to be returned in order for us to review and discuss in class before going on to the next lesson. Some of the Study Links are exploratory, so you may find that your child is not familiar with the lesson. These are meant for you and your child to explore ways to solve problems and then share with the class. Students should be coming to 4<sup>th</sup> grade knowing their multiplication facts through the 9's. We will review at the beginning of the year and add 10's, 11's, and 12's. If your child still isn't secure with the facts, please work with them diligently.

**Language Arts:** The Shurley Method will be used to teach the basic concepts of English grammar, and how to use those concepts for effective writing. We will use The Writing Academy to teach writing strategies that will encourage the students to want to write and expose their creative efforts. By the fourth grade all students are expected to write in cursive. We have limited time to work on handwriting, so they will need to work on perfecting their penmanship at home and during class assignments in all other subjects.

**Social Studies:** Texas is the focus of our social studies curriculum. Our textbook, Texas Our Texas, incorporates reading and writing skills in an excellent manner. This way the children are actually putting these skills to work instead of learning them in isolation. Sometimes the children will get two grades on a paper, one for language or reading and the other for social studies content. We will also be using daily geography lessons to learn geographical concepts outside of our state.

**Religion:** Religion classes will meet once per week for about 30 minutes under the supervision of Mrs. Katherine Uhlhorn. Class activities and discussions are based on Judeo-Christian values and their application to everyday life. Mrs. Uhlhorn will be using readings and stories from the bible, the Episcopal prayer book and other resources. All students in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade will explore their relationships with each other and how to live as God wants us to live. Mrs. Uhlhorn will also be using other materials to incorporate character and manners into lessons. These classes work in tandem with Chapel and will be overseen by both Mrs. Duffy and Father Scott. Shared experiences, role-play activities and stories will help to integrate the virtues and biblical values into the daily lives of our students.