



CLASS SYLLABUS
4th GRADE
2017-2018

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Teacher:** Kaitlyn Wilde
- B. Conference Times:** According to my schedule (during Special Subjects and PE)
- C. Subjects Taught:** Language Arts, Everyday Math, Social Studies, Science
- D. Contact Information:** kwilde@stalbansharlingen.org

II. SUBJECT/ CLASS DESCRIPTION

- A. Language Arts - (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Handwriting)** - 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.
- B. McGraw Hill Everyday 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 fourth grade knowing their multiplication facts through the nines. We will review at the beginning of the year and add tens, elevens, and twelves. If your child still isn't secure with the facts, please work with them diligently.
- C. 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.

- D. **Science (Harcourt)** - Students will explore and learn about the physical, natural and living environment that surrounds them. Hands-on science investigations, inquiry, models, and interactive notebooks are just some of the tools we will use to explore science concepts. The Harcourt Science textbook and AIMS activities will be used to supplement learning.

III. ROUTINES

- A. **Responsibility:** 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 the parent will help in those special cases.
- B. **Parent Expectations:** We expect parents to be highly involved and supportive with their child's academics. We need you to encourage independence, responsibility, perseverance, and integrity. Fourth grade is a year when we see tremendous growth in levels of independence and maturity. It will be a year of challenges that result in a wonderful and noticeable difference in your children.
- C. **Binders:** 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.
- D. **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 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 we can look into it.

IV. GRADING POLICIES

- A. **Report Cards:** Report card will be given out four times a year, every nine weeks. You will get progress reports at every three weeks, twice each term. This will allow time for any problems that occur to be corrected before the actual grade is given.
- B. **Grading policy for conduct:** Your student will receive a conduct calendar weekly. There will be positive and negative marks. 0 - 10 marks equals an E

(Excellent), 11 - 18 marks equals a G (Good), 19 - 25 marks equals an S (Satisfactory), 26 - 30 marks equal a N (Need Improvement), and 31+ marks equals an U (Unsatisfactory). There are consequences in place for 3 marks or more.

- C. Grading policy for Special Subjects:** Students may earn “S”, “N”, or “U” in special subjects. Special subject teachers will be using discipline forms. If a discipline form is sent home it must be signed by a parent and returned the following day. Three discipline forms signed and returned during a nine week grading period will earn a “U” on their report card.

V. OTHER

- A. Party sign-up sheet:** Parents are encouraged to sign up and help plan classroom parties during the year. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board in the classroom. Reminders will be sent beforehand.
- B. Snacks:** Please refer to Parent Handbook for a suggested healthy snack list. My class will have a scheduled mid-morning break everyday. Please send plastic spoons and napkins as needed. Snacks should be sent in Ziploc bags with child’s name.