

4th GRADE OVERVIEW

Mrs. Cami Hurlbut

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. I am looking forward to working closely with thirty-five Fourth Graders in a student-centered environment. We are very excited about several activities that we will be involved with this year:

Living out our School Theme - The Fourth Graders will actively explore new ways to follow Jesus with an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE through self-discovery and community reach-out. We will practice our faith by attending mass every Tuesday morning. Our units of study will include the Liturgical Calendar, Beatitudes, Saints, Sacraments, 10 Commandments, the Mysteries of the Rosary, parts of the Mass, and Bible study. We will have daily reflection time to learn from both our successes and our failures, and to foster a more personal relationship with God. Finally, we will nurture our own classroom community by joining together for a class retreat in our parish chapel.

Reading – Individually, students will read books of many different genres and work in unique and interesting ways to report on them. Some reports will be created at home. Most, however, will be written and presented orally in class. In addition to our text stories, students will enjoy reading Shel Silverstein’s infectious poems and Robert Munsch’s clever style of storytelling. Collectively, our core literature books will add an element of excitement to comprehension and critical thinking as students work cooperatively in literature circles towards bringing meaning to the stories we read together. Beach towels are necessary as we do much of our reading outdoors.

Writing – Students will work daily at improving their grammar and spelling skills and will utilize the writing process in order to perfect the art of sentence and paragraph structure. These skills will be put into practice in cross-curricular written reports as well as many creative writing assignments, including poetry, short stories, and journal entries.

Research Projects – Students will research U. S. Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama. They will seek out familiar and obscure facts about these leaders and the impact they have had on our country. This project will culminate in a PowerPoint presentation. Students will also write an essay on Fray Junipero Serra, founder of nine of California’s twenty-one missions. Two lucky contest winners will be announced and rewarded in the spring. Finally, they will become investigative reporters by researching the life of a fellow student, and presenting their findings to the class using their own unique style!

California History – Fourth Graders will study the regions, people, and growth of our unique state through engaging activities including a Gold Rush musical! We will start with landforms then make our way through the Native Americans, explorers, the missions and early settlers, Westward movement, our rich agriculture, and California today. We will take a field trip along the El Camino Real to one of California’s 21 missions. We’ll

also visit The Stagecoach Museum and place ourselves in the shoes of our state's earliest settlers. California, here we come!

Math– Students will become proficient with multiplication facts up to 12x12 by consistently drilling and taking twice-weekly “fast fact” tests to improve speed and accuracy. This will set a great foundation for the fun Fourth Grade math that awaits us - including addition and subtraction with regrouping, multiplication, division, order of operation, averages, measurement, statistics and probability, and fractions!

Buddies – We will meet our Seventh Grade and Third Grade buddies and we will enjoy several occasions when we will join together for lunches, masses, and holiday celebrations.

Pens – Students have begun using pens and are working towards mastering their cursive writing skills and turning in their best work.

Singing Joyfully – The Fourth and Fifth Graders have been invited to join the Junior Choir. The students will participate in school masses, holiday sing-a-longs, Senior Citizen Luncheons, the Parish Festival, and other designated activities during the year. We are already tuning up!

I'm so looking forward to a great year ahead!