

## Meet the Teacher Night 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fourth grade! The information presented will give you an idea of how our classroom is run, as well as other items you should be aware of.

A large part of our day is spent on reading and writing skills. We are working with the Engage program, which follows the Common Core Standards. The modules (units) are directed at nonfiction reading, targeting fact based reading selections paired with prior knowledge to make inferences and connections to new materials. There will also be a fiction component which will allow us to read several novels over the course of the year. Assessments for these novels will be organic responses, not something to study for. Most culminating book projects will be completed in school with the possibility of being finished at home if a child needs more time. There will be 10 spelling words each week, with homework activities each night. The words will be tested on Fridays. The words will be common misspells as well as words the children would like to add to the list. Math also takes up a large block of time. We will once again use the Common Core Go Math series, but some skills will be taught outside of the workbook before applying the multiple methods used by Go Math. The "old school" way is not wrong, as long as the right answer can be consistently achieved. This means you should be able to help with the homework and not hear, "That's not how we do it in school!". I will stress the idea that an answer can be found in many ways and that they need to be comfortable with at least one method. There will be a take home test to be completed and due on the day of the in class test. They do not follow the same format, the take home test is geared toward word problems and basic computation. Social Studies will cover New York State history starting with the Native American cultures. The first module of Engage aligns quite nicely with the Social Studies and will help integrate the two subjects. Science will include life, physical, and earth sciences and will culminate in the NYS exam. Lab work will be included on this test, so we will prepare throughout the year. STEM labs have been added to our curriculum to increase critical thinking and problem solving skills. These labs are fun, and really create a sense of community within the classroom as the kids collaborate and troubleshoot as a team. Religion will focus on how to live a Christ-like life while following the Ten Commandments. We will go to Mass on Tuesdays.

For all subjects there will be some take home quizzes/tests that have an expected due date. Take home quizzes and extra credit packets are your study guides to the in class exams. Please go over them with your child, they are a great way to study. Late papers will be accepted with a 5 point deduction. Homework will be given every night with the expectation of it being handed in the following day. There will be a chart hanging in the classroom and it will count as a skill grade on the report card. Homework will copied into the planner as well as being posted on our class page.

Grading Weights are as follows:

Math ~ 50% tests, 30% quizzes, 20% classwork

Language Arts ~ Reading 40%, Writing 40%, Grammar 15%, Spelling 5%

Religion/Science/Social Studies ~ 60% tests, 20% quizzes, 20% classwork

Our Special Schedule is as follows:

Monday ~ Spanish

Tuesday ~ Art/Mass

Thursday ~ Gym

Friday ~ Art/STEM

My school email address is:

[laurasullivan@stfrancisschoolbh.net](mailto:laurasullivan@stfrancisschoolbh.net)

You can contact me and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Option C and our school website are also your link to our classroom. WE are your child's team so let's work that way! Thanks for your support! Laura Sullivan