

Dear Parents,

I am looking forward to this new school year. There are lots of new things to be learned and new friends to be made.

My goal for this year is to help your child to be an independent and responsible learner, as well as, to show him or her how to make

responsible choices. To accomplish this goal, there will be regular homework and we will be making the most of our class time. My expectations for the students this year will be high. They will need to work hard and do their best.

Please, read over the next few pages with your child. These pages will outline the classroom policies, discipline, and answer some

questions you may have about the school year. Although we have discussed our policies and rules in class, please talk about what is in the packet with your child. It will help create a smooth transition into the new school year.

I am happy to get to know everyone and can't wait to get started!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Varellakis

What do you need to bring to school?

All students should have a backpack. This makes transporting school

supplies and homework easier. The students may also bring a water

bottle. The bottle must have a lid that seals tight. Water is the only thing that can be brought in the bottle. If your child wishes to bring a toy or book from home to read or play with at recess, it needs to have the child's name on it. This will prevent mix-ups and trades. Trading toys, books, etc. is not allowed at school.

Class Website

The class has a webpage that can be found on the school website. On our class page, you will find upcoming events, homework assignments, and the spelling list. There are also helpful links. We have a second site, Option C. This site allows you to check your child's grades at any time. I recommend you check the grades often.

Writing Rubrics

As a way to help students reflect and improve in their writing, rubrics will be used as an assessment. Age appropriate writing rubrics will be given to the students when they are writing their written responses to help them better understand how their writing will be scored. Students will receive a completed rubric with their written work to help concentrate on areas where they can improve their writing.

Tests

Tests will be taken each week. Tests will be sent home each Friday in a test folder. I like the idea of using a test folder for several reasons. First, it helps me know that the parents are seeing the tests that are given back to the students. Secondly, test folders will be given out right before dismissal on Friday afternoons and placed right in the students' backpacks. This will help eliminate

students knowing other students' grades. Lastly, parents can anticipate exactly when tests will be sent home, so you know when to look for them. Please look for your child's test folder every Friday. Test folders are to be signed each week and sent back to school on Monday.

To assist students with preparing and reviewing for tests, take home assessments will be given. To prepare for Math, a take home test will be given. For SS and Science, take home quizzes will be sent home. In addition, I will give the students the review lesson in class and email it home for them to review. I encourage the students to bring home their books to help review and answer questions.

Homework

Homework is mandatory. There are few allowable excuses for homework that is not turned in or incomplete. Spelling lists and assignments will be posted on the class website in case your child forgets what has to be done. Homework not done will result in the

following consequences:

- 🌐The assignment needs to be finished.
- 🌐A missing homework notice will be sent home to be signed.
- 🌐A call/email will be made after 2-3 days of missed assignment.

Homework missed due to absence will usually be due the following

day after returning to school. But of course, due to the number of days missed, workload, and the reason for the absence, the due date can be discussed.

Rules

1. We will respect ourselves, the teacher, and all others inside and outside of the classroom.
2. We will keep our hands, feet, and objects to ourselves.
3. We will listen to the teacher and follow all directions the first time.
4. We will encourage, help, and not interfere with others' and our own learning.
5. We will do our best work.

Rewards!!!

Rewards will be given for various reasons throughout the year. Homework charts are given to each student in his/her homework assignment book. Students will earn a star on the chart for each night of completed homework. When the chart is full, a homework pass is given as a reward. Homework passes can also be earned as rewards for good class behavior, celebrations, or hard work in class. Other rewards will be given to students who go above and beyond. Our "Citizen of the Month" program helps acknowledge and reward such students.

Birthdays

We all love birthdays! Birthday celebrations are welcome in fourth grade. Please write a short note if you are planning on sending in any birthday treats. Usually it is fine, occasionally if there is a conflict I will let you know so we can work out another day.

Folders

Every student was asked to bring in 3 plastic folders. I find the plastic ones hold up very well for the entire school year. One folder was labeled "Take Home". This will be the folder that students bring back and forth to school. Inside one pocket was labeled "Keep at Home" and the other was labeled "Bring Back to School". This will help organize your child's papers, and you will know what can be kept at home. The second folder was labeled "classwork". This folder is for any unfinished classwork students may have. At the end of the week, if students have any unfinished work, they are to take this folder home and finish it over the weekend. This will help eliminate any missing classwork. The last folder was labeled "ELA Modules". This folder will contain all of the reproducible sheets we will be using in class.

Changes in getting home

If there is a change in where your child goes after school or how he/she gets home, please send a note. Without that, I am not allowed to do what is out of the ordinary.

Thank you for reviewing your student's packet! I am wishing everyone a happy school year!