

Back to School Night 2019-2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fourth grade! I am delighted to have your child in my class this year. I am looking forward to a very successful year and I know you are too. This year has been off to a fantastic start. Your children are getting acquainted with our classroom procedures and have been adjusting very well. It is my ultimate goal to provide all students with an educationally challenging, yet fun, experience in my classroom.

Below are some important items that will help you to understand what is expected of your child this year. Together we can help ensure that your child has an excellent year, filled with many accomplishments.

Scheduled Specials:

Monday- Spanish

Tuesday- Mass and Art

Wednesday: Art

Thursday- Gym

Friday- STEM

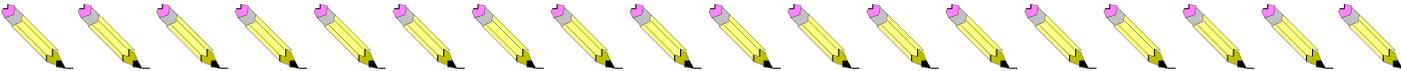
Each student has received a homework planner that we will use every day. The children will copy their homework into their planner at the end of everyday. All tests will also be listed on the board for the students to copy into their planner. This process will help the students with organization and responsibility. Each day in the beginning of the year, I will tell the students what books they must bring home in order to complete any given assignment. I will also post homework and tests on our class page, located on the school website. All upcoming tests and announcements for the week will also be sent out in an email. It is very important that you are well aware of what is happening in your child's classroom.

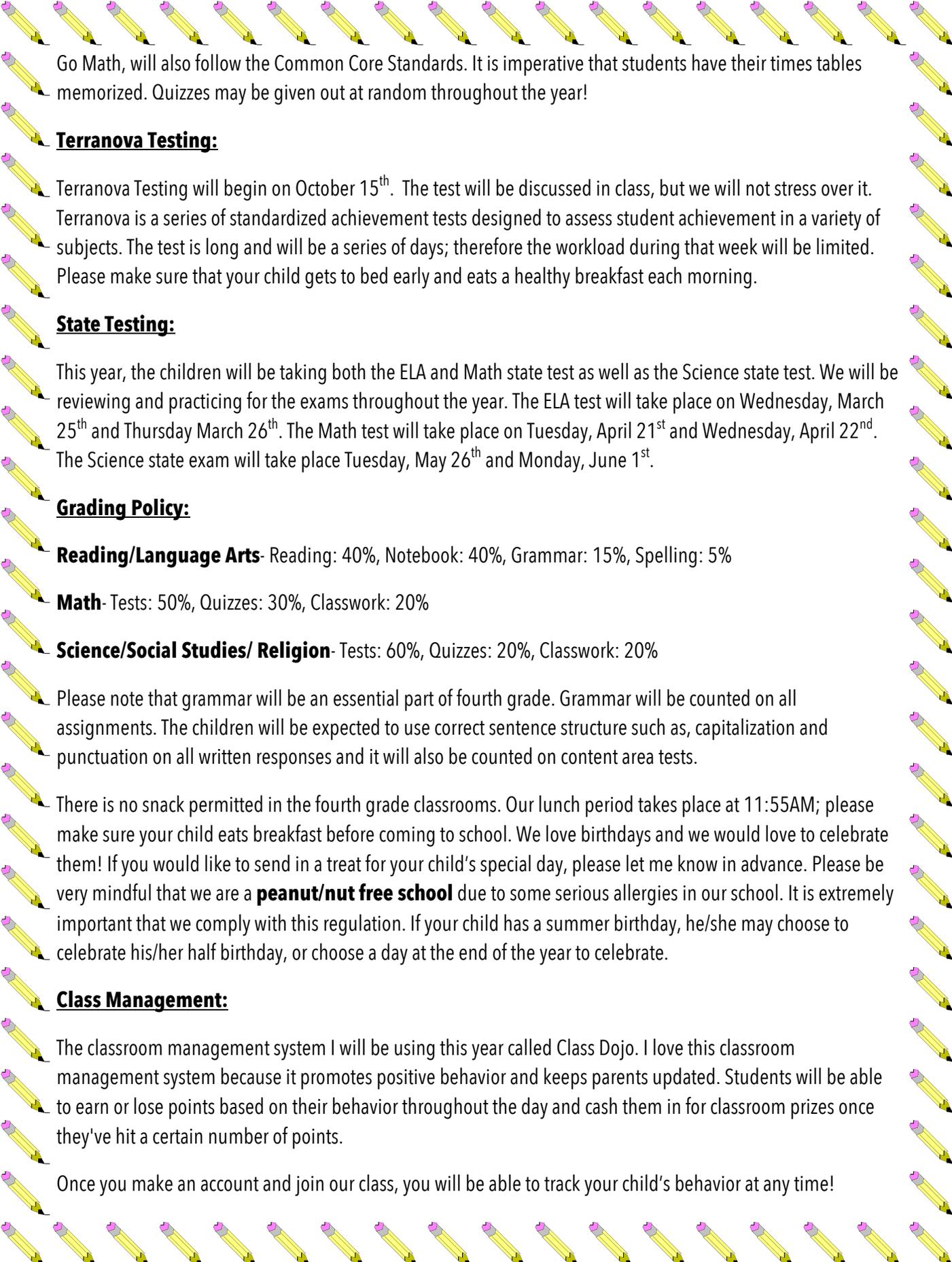
Homework Policy:

All homework is expected to be completed as assigned. Homework will be accepted late, but a late or incomplete assignment will result in a lower report card grade. Throughout the year some assignments will have a due date rather than be due the following day in class. In these instances, the due date will be indicated on the assignment, as well as, posted on our class webpage and through an email.

Classwork:

We will spend a large portion of the day on reading and writing skills. We will be using the Engage NY Modules, which follow the Common Core Standards. A variety of novels have also been added to the curriculum. At times projects or take-home assignments will be sent home and must be completed by the due date. Our Math series,





Go Math, will also follow the Common Core Standards. It is imperative that students have their times tables memorized. Quizzes may be given out at random throughout the year!

Terranova Testing:

Terranova Testing will begin on October 15th. The test will be discussed in class, but we will not stress over it.

Terranova is a series of standardized achievement tests designed to assess student achievement in a variety of subjects. The test is long and will be a series of days; therefore the workload during that week will be limited.

Please make sure that your child gets to bed early and eats a healthy breakfast each morning.

State Testing:

This year, the children will be taking both the ELA and Math state test as well as the Science state test. We will be reviewing and practicing for the exams throughout the year. The ELA test will take place on Wednesday, March 25th and Thursday March 26th.

The Math test will take place on Tuesday, April 21st and Wednesday, April 22nd.

The Science state exam will take place Tuesday, May 26th and Monday, June 1st.

Grading Policy:

Reading/Language Arts- Reading: 40%, Notebook: 40%, Grammar: 15%, Spelling: 5%

Math- Tests: 50%, Quizzes: 30%, Classwork: 20%

Science/Social Studies/ Religion- Tests: 60%, Quizzes: 20%, Classwork: 20%

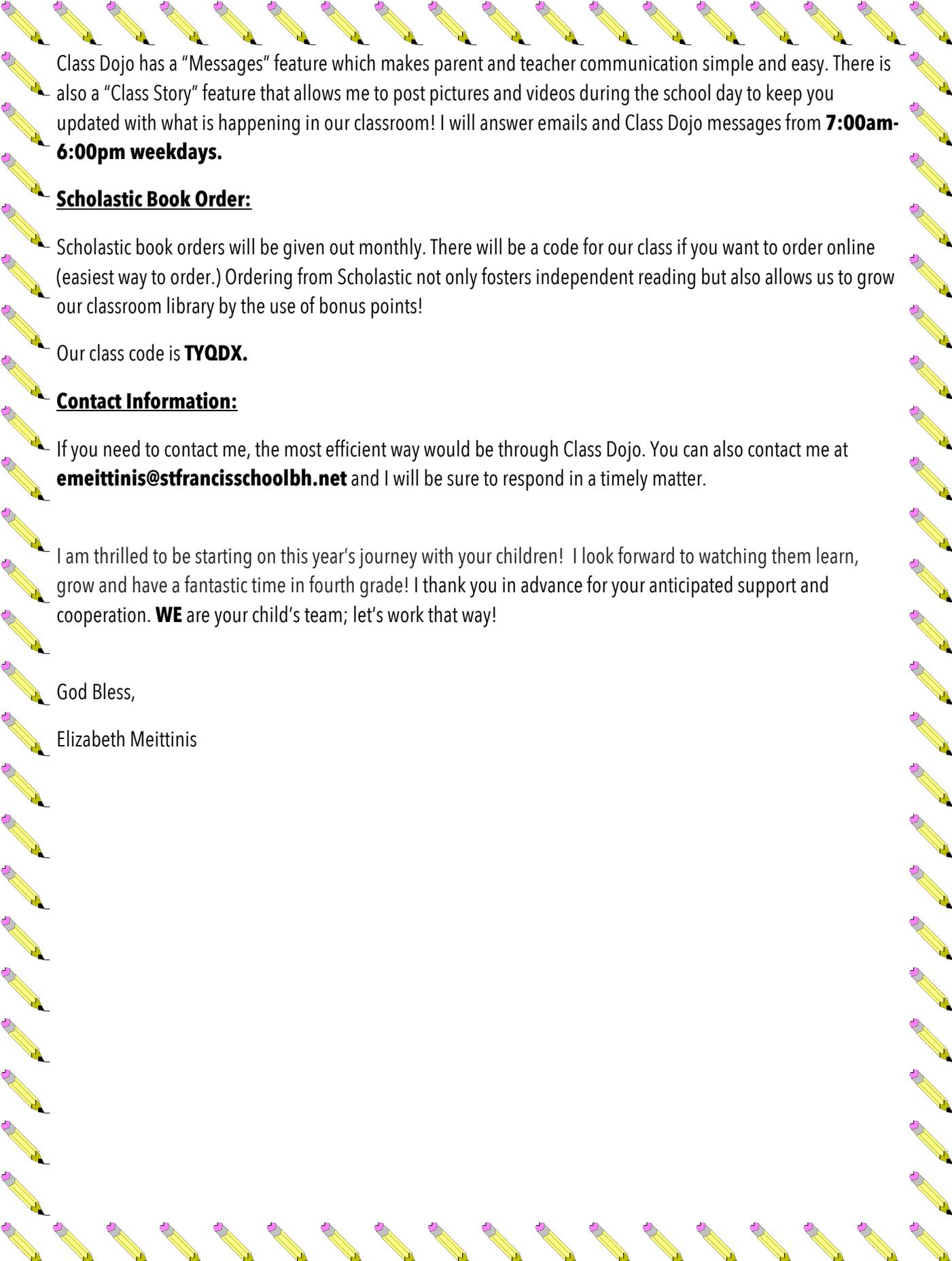
Please note that grammar will be an essential part of fourth grade. Grammar will be counted on all assignments. The children will be expected to use correct sentence structure such as, capitalization and punctuation on all written responses and it will also be counted on content area tests.

There is no snack permitted in the fourth grade classrooms. Our lunch period takes place at 11:55AM; please make sure your child eats breakfast before coming to school. We love birthdays and we would love to celebrate them! If you would like to send in a treat for your child's special day, please let me know in advance. Please be very mindful that we are a **peanut/nut free school** due to some serious allergies in our school. It is extremely important that we comply with this regulation. If your child has a summer birthday, he/she may choose to celebrate his/her half birthday, or choose a day at the end of the year to celebrate.

Class Management:

The classroom management system I will be using this year called Class Dojo. I love this classroom management system because it promotes positive behavior and keeps parents updated. Students will be able to earn or lose points based on their behavior throughout the day and cash them in for classroom prizes once they've hit a certain number of points.

Once you make an account and join our class, you will be able to track your child's behavior at any time!



Class Dojo has a "Messages" feature which makes parent and teacher communication simple and easy. There is also a "Class Story" feature that allows me to post pictures and videos during the school day to keep you updated with what is happening in our classroom! I will answer emails and Class Dojo messages from **7:00am-6:00pm weekdays.**

Scholastic Book Order:

Scholastic book orders will be given out monthly. There will be a code for our class if you want to order online (easiest way to order.) Ordering from Scholastic not only fosters independent reading but also allows us to grow our classroom library by the use of bonus points!

Our class code is **TYQDX.**

Contact Information:

If you need to contact me, the most efficient way would be through Class Dojo. You can also contact me at **emeittinis@stfrancischoolbh.net** and I will be sure to respond in a timely matter.

I am thrilled to be starting on this year's journey with your children! I look forward to watching them learn, grow and have a fantastic time in fourth grade! I thank you in advance for your anticipated support and cooperation. **WE** are your child's team; let's work that way!

God Bless,

Elizabeth Meittinis