**FOURTH GRADE COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

*“The true measure of success is not to outdo others, but rather to outdo ourselves”.  At Pine View and in 4th grade, this message underscores our 212° philosophy.  To be successful in 4th grade, putting forth extra effort, the extra degree will have a guaranteed outcome – you will “outdo yourself”!  By setting some personal academic goals for this year and then following a plan to achieve them, you will leave this school year satisfied and proud of your accomplishments.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Room | Email |
| Stacy Burkett | 265 | Stacy.burkett@sarasotacountyschools.net |
| Debbie Delaney | 269 | Debbie.delaney@ sarasotacountyschools.net |
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ELA and Math are taught using 5th Grade Standards. Social Studies and Science are taught using the 4th Grade Standards. These Florida Standards can be found at <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/>

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

Fourth grade ELA students will be concentrating on furthering vocabulary development. They will strengthen and expand grammar by expressing thoughts through creative and critical writing. Literature, textbooks, and trade books will be used to improve spelling skills and advance reading comprehension. We will be blending and incorporating Florida State Standards into the Language Arts curriculum.

VOCABULARY/SPELLING/GRAMMAR – We will be utilizing vocabulary from Reading Wonders, trade books read together in class, and teaching Greek and Latin roots with prefixes and suffixes. Student’s mastery of their vocabulary and spelling lists will be assessed. Spelling words will come from the vocabulary lists as well as teacher generated lists. Grammar assignments will focus on identifying parts of speech, proper usage, letter writing, and punctuation. We will be infusing grammar instruction in all disciplines throughout the year using a variety of resources. **Proper grammar (such as capitalization and punctuation) is expected in all content areas to receive full credit.** It is expected that the students will incorporate their grammar, spelling, and vocabulary skills in all other written assignments.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Assignments will focus on producing effective writing that has an organizational pattern, supporting ideas, sentence variety, and follows conventions of standard written English. The writing process will include planning, writing, revising, and editing. Students will concentrate on writing opinion and expository essays, as well as learning to effectively write an extended response answer in all subject areas. This year we will be emphasizing the practice of citing text evidence from reading comprehension passages within written responses. Students will be taught how to read the text as a writer, and then synthesize that information to site examples into their writing to justify their answer. This is a big component of our written communication expectations that will factor into the ELA grade.

HANDWRITING – Students in fourth grade are expected to use legible cursive on specified assignments.

READING – Assignments will include practicing active reading with our reading series, McGraw Hills’s Grade 5 Reading Wonders, as well as numerous trade books. In addition, the ELA Performance Coach will be utilized as a supplemental book based on the FL Standards. This book coincides with our standards and skills we teach in reading comprehension, grammar, and written communication. Students will apply reading strategies to poetry, fiction, and non-fiction using Storyworks (subscription cost included in grade level donation). Students will use metacognitive strategies to enhance comprehension.

*The Accelerated Reading Program* will also be implemented. Students are expected to complete a minimum of 20 points per quarter. AR grades will incorporate points earned and comprehension average. We strongly encourage all students to strive for the goal of 100 AR points or more throughout the course of the year to receive an end of the year award. *Students are expected to read books that are on or above their grade level.*

LANGUAGE ARTS GRADING POLICY

LANGUAGE ARTS

* Reading 40%
* Writing 40%
* Language 10%
* Speaking and Listening 10%

**MATH**

The fourth-grade mathematics curriculum will focus on building a solid foundation using basic facts, skills, and manipulatives to transform abstract mathematics to more concrete concepts. Students will learn the usefulness of mathematics and how it relates to everyday life as well as persevering to solve multistep problems.

We will be using the GO Math Series, which provides a research-based instructional plan at the 5th grade level. This program was designed to embody the Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics issued by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and is an engaging and interactive approach to covering the state standards. Many supplemental materials will be utilized as well.

Fluency: Students will be given skills assessments in the areas of addition/subtraction, multiplication and division regularly. The expectation is that students complete 100 fact problems in three minutes. Proficiency of math facts is essential to students’ success in math. In addition to the timed skills assessments, students will be given weekly computation assessments to check for mathematical fluency.

Assignments are given daily. Students will usually begin working on the assignments in class, so use of classroom time will determine the amount of additional time necessary for homework. These assignments are designed to practice a previously taught skill, can be completed by the student independently, and most importantly are to be returned the next day. **All computation work must be shown and done in pencil.**

MATH GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

* Tests 40%
* Quizzes 30%
* Classwork 15%
* Fluency assessment 15%

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Textbook: **Florida** – Scott Foresman

Fourth grade social studies students will explore social studies concepts through the lens of Florida studies, including Florida history, map skills, and current events. Students will examine the geography, economy, unique cultural heritage, and vast history of the state of Florida. Students will also develop the ability to read and interpret reference materials.

Activities include: projects, drama, critical thinking, guided reading, and discussions. Written communication will be sent home providing the due dates for completion of projects.

SOCIAL STUDIES GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

* Assessments 50%
* Classwork 30%
* Projects 10%
* Speaking & Listening 10%

**SCIENCE**

Welcome to the exciting world of Science! Our curriculum is based upon the Florida Sunshine State Expectations for fourth grade. We will be using the textbook, Science Fusion by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and other resources to explore: Matter, Earth Structures – rocks, weathering, Earth in Space and Time, Energy - Sound, Heat, Forces and Motion, Life Cycles and Growth, and Organisms and the Environment. Classroom activities will include experiments, readings, discussions, researching, guest speakers, videos, and hands-on investigations.

SCIENCE GRADING POLICY

Grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

* Tests 45%
* Quizzes 30%
* Class work/experiments/projects 25%

**INFORMATION FOR ALL COURSES**

**HOMEWORK/GRADES**

Unless it is an excused absence homework, including projects, will drop **1 letter grade for each day it is late. (1 day late starts @ 89%)**

GRADING SCALE

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

 0 – 59 F

Attendance / Absences

Absent students are responsible for obtaining missed assignments from the agenda board, study buddy, or teacher. Consistently arriving late and leaving early will adversely impact your child’s learning and grades. Tests, quizzes, and class work should be made up upon returning to school. In accordance with Pine View’s policy, a student has one day for every day absent to make up missed work. The children on passport should make every effort to complete the assigned work early or while away, as it is very difficult to catch up if absent. Please see the agenda book for specific attendance guidelines.

Academic Honesty

We believe that Pine View students, parents, and faculty value learning and therefore value the effort that is made by students working with teachers to achieve this life-long goal through original work. Our dedication to a tradition of excellence is based upon academic honesty. All fourth graders and their parents are expected to uphold Pine View School’s Honor Code concerning academic honesty as described in the student handbook. This will be discussed the first week of school, and students will be signing a pledge to show their compliance with the code.

**WORK HABITS/BEHAVIOR**

Every Fourth-Grade team uses classroom management that is centered on following the Be Rules. During the school year, we will engage in a variety of activities in small groups and as a class to develop and maintain a positive learning community. Students are expected to maintain a responsible and respectful demeanor in the classroom. Campus behavior, including referrals, will affect attendance to field trips. Each student’s cooperation and good behavior is essential to his/her learning as well as the learning of all the students in our class. Therefore, the following classroom rules have been established to insure each child’s success:

**“BE RULES”**

1. BE COURTEOUS: Be to class on time, enter quietly and courteously, and take your seat immediately and wait quietly for instruction.
2. BE PREPARED: Bring all books, agenda, and necessary materials to class (pencil). Have your Work Habits Calendar signed by a parent every Friday.
3. BE RESPECTFUL: Raise your hand to ask a question, make a comment, or ask for help. Refrain from unnecessary talking or other actions that interfere with learning. Treat all books and equipment with care.
4. BE RESPONSIBLE: Use class time wisely. Begin assigned work immediately. Finish required work before engaging in other activities. Complete assigned work (both in class and homework) according to directions and turn it in ON TIME.
5. BE A CONTRIBUTOR: Make positive contributions to the class. Treat your teacher and classmates with respect.

In Fourth Grade, we want to help all students to develop successful work habits! Each student will receive a “Work Habits Calendar” to be kept in his/her Link to Learning folder. This calendar is used to bridge the communication between home and school. Centered around the Be Rules, it will be used to share positive interactions, missing work, behavior issues, and comments that will help keep everyone aware about the daily routines in the classroom. This calendar **should be signed weekly** to indicate that the parents have seen it. We feel these are important life skills that need to be taught, practiced, and reinforced.

Students will be responsible for keeping an Agenda daily.

If the student receives ten or more tallies during a quarter, a conference will be held to brainstorm ideas to make the child more successful in the school setting. Of course, parents are welcome to call, email, or request a conference at any time throughout the quarter. Work Habits Celebrations will occur each quarter for those who have attained quarterly goals.

PLEASE NOTE: The first two weeks of school be given as an adjustment period. Teachers WILL document any tallies received; however, they will not count toward the first quarter. Please monitor and discuss your child’s progress during this time, and as always, sign the calendar each Friday.

*A behavior referral received in any quarter will result in not being able to attend the next field trip.*

**Cell Phone Usage**

In accordance with Pine View’s Elementary Cell Phone Policy, all phones will be turned off during school hours.

**DONATION**

**As is always the case, any costs and requested donations are to assist defraying the cost of supplementing and enriching the curriculum. A simple note to the teacher declining to make any donation is all that is needed for your child to receive any of these supplies. The Fourth Grade Team sincerely thanks our parents for your generous support.**

The total donation requested is $25. This donation covers:

* Performance Coach ELA
* *Storyworks* subscription

We greatly appreciate your generous donation, which enhances our curriculum and benefits our 4th grade students.

**PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION**

We look forward to working with both you and your child. Please remember that the FOURTH GRADE TEAM is making the utmost effort to be effective communicators with each other, the students, and the parents. ***Parents are encouraged to check and sign their child’s agenda book daily.*** *It is the student’s responsibility to update and maintain his/her agenda book daily, as it is the* ***primary source*** *for assignments and communication.* Each teacher maintains a website with upcoming events and information. The best way to contact us is through email. As a rule of thumb, we will respond back to you within 48 hours.

Sincerely,

THE FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Python Team- Debbie Delaney and Amanda Simon- <http://delaneysimon2018.weebly.com>

Gold Team- Stacy Burkett and Lois Myers- <http://Stacyburkett.educatorpages.com>

Blue Team- Brittany Gieske & Eddie Maron- <https://bgieseke.educatorpages.com>

**Please sign and return ONLY this page to your homeroom teacher as soon as possible.**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY -** “I will uphold the honor code and I understand the consequences if I chose academic dishonesty.”

**SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES**- I understand that *Storyworks* and Performance Coach are used as enrichment resources in conjunction with our county adopted materials.

I have read the course expectations for Fourth Grade Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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