

4th Grade Handbook



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Dear Students and Parents,

Hello! I'm looking forward to our year together as we work hard to learn and explore new facts and ideas. I have been praying about our year and I know God has great plans for our class.

I'll start by telling you a little about myself. I graduated from WOCS in 2000 after attending Kindergarten through 6th grade here. After WOCS I went to CBA (where I now coach high school volleyball) and then on to Tabor College. While at Tabor I studied Elementary Education and played volleyball...and I also met my husband, Kyle. We live in the country between Corn and Weatherford. Kyle raises cattle, does custom agriculture spraying, and works with another farmer in the area. Some of my favorite things include playing sports, helping out on the farm, and being outside (unless it's super cold). I also enjoy a good book and hot chocolate (when it's super cold outside).

This handbook is to familiarize you a little bit with our classroom and some of the things we have planned for the year. We will have a family bulletin board where each family fixes a display to let us know a little bit about themselves. Just put some pictures on a poster (not the foam kind) so we can staple it up and send it back easily. Each family will do a board that would stay up for a couple of weeks. I'll use my family for the first week or two and your student has signed up for a month for your family display. I'll send a note home a week before it is your turn so you have time to get it ready.

I have attached a schedule but I also wanted to make you aware of the weekly tests and quizzes. Wednesdays we will take spelling tests. The spelling workbook and words written will also be due on Wednesdays. We have a new Bible curriculum this year, so our verse tests will no longer be only on Fridays. The lessons vary in length, so we will have to take our verse tests as they fall with the lessons. Be checking the weekly note for the verse test day, as well as all other tests and quizzes.

This week we will have a spelling test (lesson 1) on Wednesday, a Bible verse test on Thursday, and a History Quiz on Tuesday, Aug. 28. Our Bible verses for this test are:

Isaiah 45:19 "I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right."

John 14:23 "Jesus replied, 'If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.'"

I'm very excited about this year and I'm so glad that all of you will be a part of this class. Feel free to email, call, or text me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Thanks!

Mrs. Basinger

Class List and Birthdays

Colombia Castro 8/20
Brendan Miller 10/4
Mrs. Basinger 10/15
William Johnson 10/20
Chrisitan Kolker 11/15

Mason Red 11/20
Kennedy Listak 12/16
Josh Dungan 12/21
Joshua Clayton 2/4
Kinsi Grube 3/25

Hudson Powell 3/21
Jace Hilliard 5/22
Kallie Collins 6/10
Morgen Cloud 7/16

Birthday Parties

Birthdays are a special time of celebration. I give my students with summer birthdays a “school birthday” so they can celebrate with their classmates also. We'll try to celebrate them as close to their half-birthday as possible. If you would like to have a special treat for your birthday child, feel free to bring a treat to share with the class. Please do not bring birthday presents or treat bags to school as this can cause problems. If you would like to get a gift for the classroom or school (a new game, puzzle, playground ball, etc.) that would be more appropriate. The way our schedule is this year, the best time to have birthday parties will depend on the day, so please call, email, or send a note a couple of days ahead to let me know what day you would like to have your party so I can plan our lessons around it and let you know a time. Thanks for your cooperation.

Nursing Home Visits

We will be visiting the United Methodist Nursing Home once a month. Be looking for a driving note coming soon. ☺

Book-It

Our class participates in Book-It from October through March. In order to get the pizza coupons and attend the Book-It party, each student is required to read 250 pages a month. In addition, I give a prize each month for the student who reads the most pages.

Field Trips

We take four field trips in 4th grade. I hope you will be able to come along on at least one of them. Some of them also have some preparation activities with which I can always use some help.

1. Roll One-Room School in Cheyenne
2. To be determined
3. Bombing Memorial and Capitol in OKC
4. Safety Day Camp in Cordell

Extra Activities

Spelling Bee: Classroom: TBA
District: 1-25-13

Math Olympics: Classroom: TBA
Area: 2-15-13

Speech Meet: Classroom: TBA
District: 3-8-13

Homework

I have provided each child with a homework folder and a homework planner. Homework assignments will be written on the board and it will be the responsibility of *each student* to copy them into his/her homework planner. If there is NO HOMEWORK that day, I will initial the homework space so you will know he/she didn't forget to write it down. He/she will place any papers or worksheets that need to be completed in the "Return to School" side of the folder. If he/she has had to fill out a Time Out Record or has a note for you that needs to be signed and returned, it will also be in this pocket. Any papers that are graded and may be kept at home or notes that do not need to be returned will be in the "Keep At Home" side of the folder. The homework planner should be taken home with this folder each day.

Usually homework should not take more than 30-40 minutes a night. In addition, please spend some time with your child each evening studying spelling, math facts, or reading even if they don't have a homework assignment. If they are bringing home a lot of work to complete each day, this could be a sign that they are not using their time wisely in class. If you do have concerns, however, feel free to contact me so we can better meet your child's needs.

Each day, when your child has completed his/her homework, please look it over and **sign** the assignment planner for that day.

Late papers will have the grade lowered. If your child is sick and misses school, we will work out a schedule so that they may catch up as quickly as possible. *If for some reason (sickness or an emergency) a student is unable to complete his homework, please write a note, and the assignment will be excused until the next day. However, please don't write a note asking for more time to complete homework if the reason is due to your child not writing down the assignment on his assignment planner or bringing the correct materials home. Please remember this will hurt your child in the long run because it sends the message that it is okay to not pay attention when we are going over homework.*

Discipline

Our classroom behavior plan consists of rules that students can understand, consequences when rules are broken, and rewards when rules are followed.

Our rules come from 1 Peter 2:17, which says, "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." (NIV)

Class Rules:

1. Respect God.
2. Respect Mrs. Basinger.
3. Respect others.
4. Respect yourself.

We will discuss the meaning of respect and we will also discuss ways to act respectfully.



Classroom Baseball

Classroom baseball will be played on an individual level and on a class level.

Individual: Each student gets 3 strikes. Strike 1 = warning and a loss of recess time. Strike 2 = a note home to parents that the student fills out explaining what they did and why it was wrong (Time Out Record). Strike 3 = a visit to Mrs. Quiring. Students start over fresh each week. Other consequences include loss of points, loss of fun activity time, phone call home, time out.

Whole class: if the whole class can go without getting 3 strikes (an out) in one week, they get a “base hit.” When the runner reaches home, (signifying 4 weeks without an out) the class scores a run and gets a treat (popcorn party, cookies, movie, etc.) If the class gets 3 outs before scoring a run, they must clear the bases and start another inning.

Most things we do in life will be team-oriented—working with another person or group of people to achieve common goals. This will help the class realize that they have to help each other out in order to reach their goal and will create a team spirit within our classroom.

I have also developed a “credit system” that we will use to reward those who follow these guidelines. Students may earn credits by getting their planner signed (5 credits/day), turning in all their work on time (15 credits/week), going a day without getting a strike (5 credits/day). There are also some consequences for not meeting these guidelines. If they do not get their planner signed the whole week they lose 5 credits, getting a strike loses 5 credits, and any missing work deducts 2 credits/assignment.

At the beginning of each week, there will be a “store” where they will have a chance to spend their credits on things like coupons, candy, or small toys.

I will send home a report of the week before in the Tuesday folder so parents can see how their student did during the week. It needs to be signed and returned. If a student reaches a negative number, they will have to pay their credits back by doing some “community service” and giving up some recess time.

Any contributions to our store would be appreciated. ☺