

WELCOME TO GRADE 4

SUMMER WORK

The brain is a muscle and to keep it in shape it needs continuous use. A dormant learning summer is huge obstacle in learning. Summer work is always crucial. It is mandatory and will be graded.

This work will provide the most benefit and the least amount of stress for everyone if it is done a little bit of a time, week by week. Finishing it in June or waiting to September to start defeats the purpose.

I wouldn't start it right away, take a few weeks to recharge. Maybe start in the beginning of July. Once the work is started, anything that can be done consistently and as part of routine will yield greater results. As you will hear from me repeatedly, EFFORT is everything. In 4th grade, how we do anything is how we do everything. I do not want the summer work just to be done; I want it done to the best of the scholar's ability.

I tell scholars they have one chance to make a first impression. Summer work is that first impression. If summer work is incomplete or done without effort it will go back to the scholar for fixing. If summer work is not done it will get done eventually. Summer work is mandatory for ALL 4th grade scholars so ALL 4th grade scholars will have to get it done. It is graded.

PART 1 READING AND WRITING

Scholars will have three books to read and write about this summer. The reading books will be provided to the scholars as well as composition notebooks, pencils, erasers, bookmarks... Everything they need, I will provide. Books and completed notebooks must be brought back the first day of school.

Note: Scholars cannot possibly read enough at this age, so additional reading of any kind is expected. I am not concerned with what other books are read and there are no additional writing assignments on these books. I just want your scholar to read. The long-term benefits of this are tremendous.

Book #1 *Ellie, Engineer* by Jackson Pearce

In the envelope with the books and supplies, scholars will receive comprehension questions to answer for this book. Questions are for about every two chapters of this book. Best effort is always expected, answer in complete sentence with excellent detail. This is a great book as it is extremely STEM friendly.

Book #2 *Who Was Benjamin Franklin* (from the *Who Was?* Series)

In the provided composition notebook, scholars will write the ten most important facts they learned about while reading. Each fact should be in complete sentences. Given the United

States 250th birthday upcoming I thought this book was appropriate, plus Franklin was not only a Founding Father but very much into STEM.

Book #3 *I Survived the American Revolution, 1776* (from the *I Survived Series*)

Staying on theme, scholars are to read the book and then write a 2-4 paragraph essay in the composition notebook. The first paragraph or paragraphs should describe/summarize what they read. The last paragraph or paragraphs should be about how they felt while reading the book and what they would do if faced with a similar situation. Again, I expect best effort and want to see very well written paragraphs. This series is awesome as it puts a fictional 10-year-old character in an important historical event.

Part 2 MATH

Math Workbook (3rd Grade Review)

The school has purchased Math workbooks for all returning scholars. I suggest a page a day, again pace and consistency positively impact learning and makes life a lot easier. Math is not a subject that is easy to skip around grade levels, Math starts with a foundation and builds on it as grades progress. I think summer is a perfect time to review and improve. You cannot be successful at 4th grade math if you are missing 3rd grade skills. Looking forward you will find out that 3rd, 4th and 5th grade math are very similar, most concepts are the same, but the numbers are bigger and the problems are more challenging. In 4th grade we do not do math, we understand math.

Scholars are to bring their completed workbooks with them the first day of school.

Multiplication Facts

Scholars should practice, practice, practice and then practice their multiplication facts even more. Almost everything we do in Math in 4th grade is related to the basic multiplication facts from 0-12. If these facts are memorized, they will have a much easier time succeeding in Math next year. I want them to know their multiplication facts like they know the alphabet. Automaticity of math facts leads more time to spent on conceptual thinking. Again in 4th grade we do not just do math, we understand math. I have provided each scholar flash cards in the envelope to use for practicing, this method is old school but effective. Any form of practice helps; I am good with any methodology. Here are a few websites as well

<https://www.multiplication.com/quiz/multiplication-self-correcting-quizzes>

<https://www.multiplication.com/games/all-games>

<https://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards>

<https://www.timestables.com/speed-test/>

SUPPLY LIST

No need to buy a single thing! Everything is provided. Do not waste money on any supplies. It will just be sent home.

All I really need is for scholars to come to school every day that they can, be ready to work, and willing to learn. I will provide everything else.

I want scholars always giving their best effort and I want all assignments completed on time. A big focus will be on expected behavior early in the year. 4th Graders will follow ALL classroom and school rules. My bar is extremely high; your scholar will work hard and behave and will be better for it.

For me it is not about 4th grade but getting scholars ready for 5th grade beyond. I have deep respect for the money and sacrifices you give to send your scholar to SHSS and I will make sure that your sacrifices and your investment in education will be well worth it.

Important notes:

- 1) Regular backpacks are fine as scholars will not be taking Chromebooks home in 4th grade.
- 2) Lockers are not to be decorated in any way, there is to be nothing in scholar lockers daily besides their backpacks, lunches and jackets. At night they are to be completely empty.
- 3) No need to purchase any folders or binders as well.

Scholars new to SHSS

I will have all your summer supplies ready to be picked up. If you would like to meet me and have a chat when you are picking up the materials, I would love to do that. Just email me so we can coordinate.

Questions, Comments, Concerns

If you have any questions or need anything, please email me at cuva@sacredheart-boston.org. I will be in the school most of the summer.

Have a safe and wonderful summer, I can't wait until September!

Mr. Uva