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**Welcome to 4th Grade packet**

**2017-2018**

**Holy Family, 4TH GRADE**

**Jennifer Willcott, Teacher**

**Teacher Contact Information**

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**Welcome to 4th grade!**

**My name is Mrs. Willcott, and I am very excited to be your child’s 4th grade teacher! There are so many exciting things planned for this year and I look forward to getting started! Please take some time to read through my welcoming packet. If you still have questions after reading this packet, please contact me, as it is possible I may have over looked something!**

**Overview/Philosophy:**

This year will be a great mindset growth experience for your child, not only towards academics but they will be seeping deep into their religious faith! Academics are something I thrive on as a teacher and I push my students to grow beyond where they think they can be. I believe that if students are not given the chance to grow, they won’t. If students are given a variety of modified learning experiences and the chance to explore life, their minds will grow beyond what is expected of them.

My classroom is filled with: Small group instruction, team building (Kagan), hands on activities, differentiated instruction, technology, growth mindset and love and logic techniques. These attributes help provide your child with a fun, safe, and inviting classroom that makes learning exciting for all learning styles!

However, I need ***your*** help and cannot reach my goal with these students without the support of their parents! Communication is essential and staying connected with parents throughout the day/week is important to the success of these students. It is nice for parents to stay involved (in the loop) and know things before the child comes home and shares it. This can provide parent/child a great bonding experience and positive connection between home/school. Being on the same page (parent/teacher) allows the student to know we work together to help the success of their growth inside and outside the classroom.

I have an updated calendar on our classroom website (homework/events/etc.), classroom Dojo (parents get connected and receive updates/messages/etc.), remind (private/instant text messaging system), and Google Classroom.

**Homework expectations:**

Homework is a great way to continue practicing things we have already learned in the classroom. It also teaches students how to be responsible, organized, and prepared for upper grade readiness. I will expect students to read at least 20min every night in addition to their homework. We will be venturing into an Accelerated Reading Program (AR), where students will be able to take a comprehension test on the books they finish and score points. They will set their own goal on how many points they feel they’d like to reach, for each month! I absolutely LOVE this program and I am sure you and your child will too! If they meet their goal for the month they will be awarded a prize, and who doesn’t like prizes? I will also have a grand prize for the student who gets the most AR points by the end of the year!

***NO HOMEWORK ON FRIDAYS!!*** *As a busy mom of three children myself, I understand that weekends get swallowed up by sports/activities/family time and well it’s endless! I expect my students to work hard all week and take a break over the weekend! (However, there might be a time where your child did not use his/her time wisely during the week and has missing assignments. MISSING ASSIGNMENTS will be expected to be done over the weekend. I will notify parents in these cases so they are not caught off guard).*

Your child will have a plastic homework folder that will come home daily. One side will be labeled “HOMEWORK” while the other side is labeled, “NOTES”. Please look through the folders nightly. I will send homework home throughout the week and expect it to be returned the following school day, unless expressed otherwise. Students will get participation points for returning it or graded (depends on the assignment). Students who do not return homework will have a natural consequence and will walk 5min. of their recess that day.

Shall a student continue to not return his/her homework I will contact parents to modify a homework plan that better fits the needs of that student/family.

**Behavior:**

In 4th grade we focus on ALOT of team building and being respectful to all! There are classroom rules and strict procedures that I expect the students to follow. To help with this we have Class Dojo (parents must sign up). This helps keep students accountable for their actions within/outside the classroom. Parents are notified with how their child is doing throughout the day! We also have a fun classroom rewards program where “the whole class” earns letters to spell out the word “RELIGIOUS”. These points can ONLY be earned by receiving complements from someone outside the classroom! Example: Lunch room teacher compliments the entire class for getting in line quickly and staying quiet!! Once this goal is achieved they get to celebrate their hard work with a classroom celebration!

Seating arrangements- The students usually sit in small groups of 4 or 5. These are called “teams”. They will create team chants (cheers), names and learn to work with each other! “Teams” change at the beginning of each month. Teams can earn points and with so many points earned, typically they get a gum ball!

Parents will be contacted by the teacher or principal should issues arise in the classroom or students behavior does not seem to be improving by utilizing classroom behavior management tools.

**Tardy:**

Students are expected to be at school by 7:45 a.m. Students will be considered tardy after the last student has walked into the building. If your child is tardy he/she will need to get a note from the office.

Pick up/Drop off:

For pick up routine please see attached flyer.

If there is a day where you’re after school schedule changes, please contact me or the office so we know of the changes asap and your child can go home accordingly.

**Spirit Day:**

Students are allowed to wear jeans and a Holy Family/Haden shirt. There will be $2 dress down days (see school calendar).

**Birthday/Holiday party:**

\*All treats need to be taken to the office prior to 2:30pm on the day of the planned party. \*Please let me know at least ONE day in advance if you want to bring treats in for your child so I can plan accordingly. \*ALL parties for Holidays and birthdays will be celebrated after 2:30pm. If you would like to attend please sign in at the office. \*Classroom moms are welcome to plan and participate in helping our class parties!