

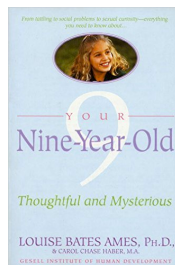
August 25, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 4th grade. My name is Lynn Sohasky, and I look forward to getting to know each of you as the year progresses. Your child will go through 4th grade just once, and I want you to know I value and treasure every child and feel it is an honor to serve as their 4th grade teacher.

Developmental

“A few things to think about”
(credit goes to Louise Bates Ames of the Gesell Institute of Human Development)



The 4th grade child:

- can be a surprise for parents, especially with the first child or a child of the opposite sex from a previous 4th grader
- is learning a new and abstract way of thinking as opposed to memorizing
- can find organization a challenge, *but independence is critical to mastering this life skill*
- goes from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”
- may feel challenged emotionally, socially, and physically in a manner they did not in K - 3rd.

FYI

- website: lsohasky.yolasite.com Please click on the “Weekly Newsletter and Week at a Glance” link for test/due dates,

weekly newsletter, biweekly affixes, current event template, Reading Log template, and other important information.

- Gradelink - I post grades every one to two weeks.
- Homework - math - IXL 10 minutes/night on Monday - Thursday nights (I will assign a section each night) and a math page; science/social studies/reading log entries on the printed "Reading Log" I give out on Monday; other homework as needed; no late homework accepted (per school policy)
- Traveling folder - homework, unfinished class work to complete at home, graded tests, and quizzes, field trip forms; *this folder travels to and from class every day*
- Field trips - you must be Virtus trained, fingerprinted, and have a current proof of car insurance on file in the office, in order to chaperone on any field trips; I hope to take the class on 3 field trips this year: Olivas Adobe Rancho (Ventura), Stagecoach Inn, and Santa Barbara Mission/Botanical Gardens.
- "Book Club" - meets two trimesters - 3 times for each book; volunteers must meet all of the requirements above except for proof of insurance
- Water bottles - must contain water ONLY and have a working (must close) lid

Tests & Quizzes

ELA/Reading

- Comprehension/Vocabulary/Spelling/Grammar/Conventions - weekly; also we will use Accelerated Reader

Math

- Chapter tests approximately every 2 weeks along with occasional quizzes

Social Studies

- Chapter tests approximately every 3 weeks

Science

- Chapter tests approximately every 3 weeks and occasional quizzes; students may use their notes on the test

Religion

- Chapter tests approximately every 7-8 school days

Keyboarding

- We use typing.com and will practice our skills in the computer lab

Behavior

- I am clear about my expectations and repeat them when necessary. My goal is to avoid problems, however, when an undesired behavior persists past a verbal warning, I may give a “think sheet” or a “behavior reflection” sheet. A think sheet goes home to be filled out by the student and signed by the parent and student and should be returned the next morning. A behavior reflection sheet will be filled out and stay in the class. Both sheets will go into the child’s folder. If it is necessary to give 3 think sheets in a semester, I will ask for a meeting to include parents, child, and teacher. I also use a colored card system that includes a green, yellow, orange, and red card.