



August 2009

Dear Parents,

First and foremost I'd like to welcome you as a fourth grade parent! We are off to a great start in Room 241. Our students are adjusting well and we are learning lots of great things! Fourth grade is a special time in your child's life. He or she will be learning many new things, as well as refining those skills previously acquired (academic, organizational, social) and building self-esteem. I hope that you are looking forward to starting a new year alongside your child; I certainly am!

Now that we have spent a few days together I wanted to send home a letter to help answer some questions that you may have. The first days of school were a time for us to all get to know one another and learn our new routines in fourth grade. Both the students and I learned a great deal about everyone and the foundations for wonderful bonds have been made. Next week we are moving into our more regular routine, which I will explain below.

Homework:

Typically, your child will have homework Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Homework is a tool for students to practice concepts that are taught in school and should not be something that your child is constantly struggling with. If you find that your child is having excessive frustration with a concept, please let me know so that we can further reinforce the concept in school. Your child's homework assignments will always be written down in his or her assignment notebook, which I initial every day before the students go home. I will also be checking for your initials to make sure you are aware of what your child is bringing home for homework. In addition to your child's daily homework assignment(s) he or she will be expected to read for 15-20 minutes each night. This book should be at your child's independent reading level. Please ask if you need help choosing a book that is "just right." Your child should also practice his or her math facts on a regular basis. If homework is not completed on a nightly basis students will need to make it up at school and may need to spend some recess time doing so. A notice will go home to alert you of your child's missed assignments.

Classroom Behavior Plan:

Our class will be working together to form a classroom community that follows the rules and procedures we have established together. Occasionally reminders are needed, and our class behavior bead box will help to structure this. If a student needs to be spoken to due to behavior, I will ask him or her to move a bead into his or her numbered box. This is a warning stone, which acts as a reminder to follow the classroom rules and responsibilities. If the behavior continues or the student needs to be spoken to again, he or she will need to move another stone into his or her box. Upon doing this they will have to complete an apology of action and have a paper sent home that you need to sign and send back to school with your child the next day. If a third stone needs to be moved, the child will need to take a break away from the activities in the room because his or her actions are adversely impacting the learning of others. At the end of each day the bead box is emptied and the students have a fresh start each morning to make better choices.

I hope that this letter helps you have a better understanding of our classroom procedures. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and/or comments. It is my philosophy that the children in Room 241 are "our" children. Together we can work as a team to maximize the students' potential. I have also enclosed a form for you to fill out if you are interested in volunteering in our classroom or being a part of our classroom activities. Please know that you are welcome to participate in our classroom at your own personal comfort level.

Warmly,

Sarah Chudzik



