

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The beginning of a new school year brings a fresh start, along with feelings of excitement and anticipation. I am honored to be your child's teacher and look forward to a productive year. H. Lynn Erickson, author of *Stirring the Head, Heart, and Soul*, says, "Teachers and parents are partners. They share the job of nurturing the head, heart, and soul of a child. In their own ways, they contribute to the development of self-esteem, confidence, and the important belief in self." With that responsibility in mind, I want to inform you of some policies and activities that should make returning to school a pleasant experience.

Every Friday your child will bring home our classroom newsletter, "Fourth Grade Highlights." This will furnish valuable information including concepts we are studying in each subject, assignments and due dates, upcoming events, guest speakers, and field trips

We operate under one rule; remember respect. I treat the students respectfully, and expect the same from them. A respectful environment is a safe and warm place where children are free to ask questions and learn without ridicule. Children are expected to treat each other with respect. In the event of a problem, I encourage children to solve the situation themselves. If they are not successful, I will intervene. In the rare instance that I am not successful, I will make a phone call to a parent or guardian to discuss the situation.

Homework is practicing a concept that has been learned in class. Math homework will be study links, which reinforce the daily lessons. Occasionally a study link may be challenging. I expect your child to try for at least 20 minutes. If your child is not able to complete the assignment after attempting for 20 minutes, please write a note stating they made that attempt and sign it. We will go over the assignment the next day, and I will answer any questions. I will also be available at recess to work with your child individually or in a small group.

Spelling is very predictable. Students are leveled and given lists at their individual level on Friday. Students will pretest on Monday and take the final test on Friday. Students are expected to study their words at home. If a student receives 100% on Monday, they are excused from taking the final test that week. Any changes in this schedule (snow days, short weeks, etc.) will be communicated in “Fourth Grade Highlights.” Spellings tests will be taken on Spelling City at www.spellingcity.com. Your child will have a user name and a password. Spelling City may be accessed at home for practice and to check test scores. Students will also take a vocabulary test on their spelling words each Thursday.

Students are required to read accelerated reading books for their independent reading homework. The minimum monthly goal is five points, which all students are expected to successfully achieve. Students exceeding seven points will receive bonus points, which are redeemable for prizes. Any modifications to this goal will be communicated in the weekly newsletter.

We will have a snack time each morning. I encourage children to bring healthy snacks. Some examples are apples, string cheese, yogurt, crackers and peanut butter, and granola bars. I discourage chips, candy, and cookies. Please help your child make healthy choices. Milk will be available through the school milk program. Milk may be purchased for half of the year or the entire year.

Your child will be a citizen in our classroom community. The best way to contact me is email at kmcbrady@pp.k12.mn.us. I will send a reply or phone you as soon as possible. If you prefer to call, I am available most days before and after school. I am looking forward to working together to nurture your child educationally, emotionally, and socially. Through cooperative efforts, I am confident we will have a successful year.

Mrs. McBrady