

Dear Incoming Fourth Graders and Parents,

I want to begin our first week in 4th grade at Divine Mercy Academy in a special way. Since I am the Math and Science teacher for 4th and 5th grades, I thought a fun and educational project involving math and or science would be perfect as a summer project!

Therefore, the children's summer reading assignment will be to read about a famous person who has made a contribution to either of these two areas of study. I would like each of the children to pick a biography of someone who fits this criteria from the Who Was series. This series has quite a few biographies of some of these famous people. Some good choices would be Thomas Alva Edison, Charles Darwin, Benjamin Franklin, Neil Armstrong, Jacques Cousteau, Galileo, Isaac Newton, Marie Curie, Rachel Carson, Sally Ride, Albert Einstein, and Jane Goodall. Maybe your child will pick one of the people they know nothing about and develop a better understanding of their accomplishments and what they gifted to the world. I want the children to read about people who may have faced problems, overcame obstacles or criticism, and persevered through it all to succeed and make a contribution to our world. My hope is that the children will find a new found source of inspiration in this project! :)

I am enclosing a book report outline that the children are to fill out as neatly and completely as possible. Please let it be their work. You may certainly look it over, but please let them write it.

On Friday, September 7, 2018 I would like the children to bring in an outfit as close as possible to what their person would wear. I would love for them to get in character with voice, hair, etc. Along with the book report outline and the outfit, I would like the children to bring in a bag with no less than five items that pertain to their person. Please understand, I don't consider pictures to be items. You may certainly bring them in, but they will be in addition to the five items. Included in this bag should be items that give us an idea of your person's contribution to the study of math or science. As the children are in character, they will teach us about their famous person. Explaining why they think these items are important to their person and why what they accomplished is important to our world, should bring a deeper meaning to the project.

We will share the biographies the first full week of school. I'm looking forward to a wonderful new year with your children and you.

Have a safe, fun and blessed summer!

With God's Peace,

Mrs. Lyness

PS. The supply list is attached! :)

Helpful Summer Strategies for Parents of 4th Grade Students

- Pick up a cool journal for your child to write a paragraph in two or three times a week. They can write about what they are doing, what they are thinking, if they have any questions to ask, or anything that is on their mind! They can make up fictional stories. Maybe they'll want to start writing their own autobiography by writing about their own adventures! Maybe they'll want to write a few poems about the beach or vacation or the garden!! Just to keep the children writing is key!! :)
- Encourage your child to read every day.
- Make reading fun! I go - you go!
- Help your child select books that are not too easy and not too hard-just right. Use the five finger strategy. As your child reads a page, have them use their fingers to count how many words they don't know on the page. If they don't know two or three words, that's ok. If they don't know four or five words, the book is probably a little too advanced for them.
- Keep reading to and with your child even after your child has learned to read.
- Talk with your child about your favorite book growing up.
- Listen to your child read and show interest in the story.
- Read the same story as your child so you can discuss it with them!!
If your child is struggling with reading, sometimes reading together at the same time helps to model fluency and helps with unfamiliar words.
Reading along with a book online or on CD may also help.

Math Facts

I strongly recommend that your child stay on top of his or her math facts. I can't stress this enough. They should have mastered all their addition and subtraction facts. Knowing their multiplication and division facts is extremely important!! They should know all of these facts to twelve before they enter fourth grade. Children who have a good command of their facts start with a definite advantage. Flashcards, drilling the facts while driving, computer games, and card games are all fun ways to review. My family loves playing Yahtzee and card games such as 500, which reinforce facts in such a fun way. Please set aside time, several times a week to do this with your child, especially if you find they struggle in math. I find that most children tend to get rusty over the summer. The children who know their facts, always seem to achieve better understanding in math.

I'm looking forward to a great year working with your children and you. Thank you for your cooperation with the summer reading assignment, the dress up, bag of items, the book report and the math fact study.

Peace and prayers for a safe, happy, and restful summer,

With Much Gratitude,

Mrs. Lyness

Summer Reading Outline-Incoming 4th Graders

Biography from the Who Was Series

Book Title _____

Biography of _____

Biography Author _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death or Age in 2018 _____

Please share four facts about the early life of your famous person. Write in well constructed complete sentences!!!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Explain four reasons why your person is important. Please write using complete sentences.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

List four adjectives that describe your person. Please make them "college talk" adjectives.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

If you could ask your person a question what would ask them and why would you ask that particular question? Please give a very thoughtful response!!

STUDENTS ENTERING 4th SUPPLIES LIST

Hopefully, this list will enable you to do your shopping ahead of time, and perhaps, even find some of the items on sale. Please bring them to school on the first day.

PLEASE LABEL ALL SUPPLIES AND UNIFORMS!

- 1 Backpack or bookbag
- 1 Canvas Tote - Approximately 17"x 17", NO zippers or closures
- 1 Water Bottle, 20 oz or less, spill-proof - Preferably no sprayers
- 2 2" Binders (1 for math and science and 1 for all other subjects)
- 1 Poly (Plastic) 2-Pocket Folder to be used daily
- 1 Pencil Box (Aprox. 5" x 8" - No Larger)
- 1 Dictionary
- 8 Black Pens
- 8 Red Pens
- 12 #2 Pencils (sharpened)
- 1 Sharpener with a cover to catch pencil shavings
- 4 Highlighters (1 each of yellow, pink, blue and green)
- 1 24 count crayons
- 1 Package washable markers
- 2 Black Sharpie Markers (1 fine point)
- 1 Bottle of Tacky Glue
- 4 Glue Sticks
- 1 Index Card Box
- 3 Packages ruled index cards (white or colored)

For the classroom:

- 1 Bottle Hand Sanitizer
- 3 Large Boxes of Tissues
- 3 Containers of Antibacterial Hand Wipes (Can be bought at Walmart.)
- 1 Roll of Paper Towels

Thank you for your cooperation. Have a nice summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lyness

