



September 6, 2019

Dear Parents,

I'd like to sincerely thank you for all the generous classroom supply donations. You can be assured they will all be put to good use throughout the year. It has also been a pleasure getting to know your children this week. Our focus this week was primarily on acclimating to fourth-grade policies, procedures, and expectations.

Most students appeared to enjoy working collaboratively with their classmates during class discussions, and "turn and talk" activities throughout the week. As part of our opening week activities, students also created time capsules, which will be put away until the last day of school when they will then be reopened. For these time capsules, students wrote a journal entry describing how they feel about entering 4th grade. Additionally, they completed a self-reflection sheet, which will also be placed in their personal time capsules.

In Language Arts, a few routines were established. After reading a short story to the class and modeling how to write a summary statement describing the main ideas in a story, students practiced writing their own summary statements using their independent reading book. We also began establishing a routine for our "Wonders: ELA (Reading) program this week. Routines for Essential Questions, Cooperative Group Work Expectations, Vocabulary, and Close Reading Strategies were the focus of our activities. We will continue developing our Language Arts routine next week. Our Spelling routine was also introduced this week. After taking a pretest (usually on Monday), each child is assigned 5 "Spelling Words" based on which words they misspelled on this pretest. Students then complete various vocabulary and writing activities throughout the week using their 5 Spelling Words. On Fridays, students are then tested on their 5 words only. Our first Spelling test is scheduled for next Friday, September 13th. Each week, your child will write his/her Spelling Words in the right-hand margin of his/her planner for reference throughout the week.

In Math, we began working on place value concepts using place value charts and disks. These activities are from Eureka Engage NY Module 1. Our focus was on multiplying and dividing by 10 using these charts and disks to bundle groups of ten and regroup to the appropriate place on the chart. A Math Newsletter containing samples of the tools and strategies we will be using in class was sent home with your child on Friday to help clarify the conceptual approach this program uses.

In Social Studies, we reviewed some geography terms and started taking notes this week. As a class, we began examining how cardinal and intermediate direction, as well as, latitude and longitude lines help people locate places on maps and globes. Students also identified the four hemispheres on a globe and map.

Just a few reminders...

*Student Planners and Reading Logs must be signed by an adult on a nightly basis.

*Links to Our Nightly Homework Assignments, Itinerant Schedule, and Curriculum Programs can be accessed from my Weebly page: <https://mrsalviano.weebly.com> .

Please feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions or concerns at jalviano@cpsed.net.

Enjoy the weekend!
Mrs. Alviano

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