



Mrs. Cyr's Class – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can everyone take instrument lessons in the fourth grade? How does that work?

A: All fourth grade students have the opportunity to take instrument lessons and participate in fourth grade band. Lessons take place once a week during class time. Mrs. Williamson and I work together to craft the least disruptive lesson time for each student (lessons usually take place for 1/2 an hour during class time in small groups). A parent note will be sent home at the beginning of the year with sign up information, and then a meeting will take place one evening in September. Parents will receive student instrument rentals at this time. Before students sign up they will have the opportunity to see a demonstration of each of the possible instruments to help better inform their choice. This demonstration will take place during their music class. Please let me know if you have any other questions about this process.

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Q: Will my child have weekly spelling words?

A: Yes. Most weeks students will have a list of approximately 20 spelling words to study. All of these words follow a specific spelling pattern. Practicing these patterns will help students become better readers and writers. On Monday, students will be given a spelling preview test which will alert them to the words they need to focus on. All spelling lists are loaded onto the web site "Spelling City" on Monday. Students can play games and take practice tests to help them study. Student logins and passwords for this site will be affixed to the front cover of their agendas. Tests will be given on Friday and will consist of 10-15 words from the list.

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Q: Why should I fill out a CORI form?

A: Any parent wishing to participate in activities during our school day (including, but not limited to field trips) must fill out a CORI form. It is better to do this at the beginning of the year so that you do not have to worry about it once things get busy.

Q: What does homework look like in fourth grade?

A: Written homework in fourth grade should take no longer than 45 minutes. Students are also expected to read for 20-30 minutes (or longer) each night. On most nights the written homework will only consist of a math or spelling sheet that should take no longer than 20 minutes. Students should also use this time each night to practice their spelling words. Please alert me if written homework is taking over 45 minutes, or if your child is becoming frustrated with the content.

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Q: What does it mean now that all classrooms are “allergy aware” at RMS?

A: Students in all classrooms at RMS need to make sure that all food entering the classroom is packed separate from their regular lunch and that these snacks are peanut & tree nut free. This includes food that was packed in a facility that processes nuts. Students can bring nut products for lunch, but will not be permitted to sit at an “allergy aware” table. Please contact Nurse Murphy with any additional questions.

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Q: When are Parent/Teacher Conferences?

A: Parent/Teacher conferences will take place on Thursday, October 27, and Friday, October 28. I will be available until 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, and 3:00 p.m. on Friday. If these days/times do not work please contact me to arrange an alternate meeting. Sign-ups for conference times will take place at open house.

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Q: Can I send in cupcakes for my child’s birthday?

A: Students are not permitted to share food in the classroom for allergy reasons. Feel free to send in a non-edible birthday treat if you would like.

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Q: The math is different from the math I learned in school. How can I help my child at home?

A: Go Math! Online textbooks and concept videos are available here:

http://rms.oldrochester.org/pages/Rochester_Memorial/Families_Students/Go_Math_Links_4_-_6

If you still have questions, please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to help!

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Q: My child doesn't like to read at home. Can you help me?!?

A: The #1 reason students do not like to read is that they have a text that either does not really interest them, or is too easy or difficult. We will be completing many different lessons in class about choosing "Just Right" books. If, after a few weeks, your child is still struggling with nightly reading, feel free to contact me and I will try to help them select an engaging book from our library to bring home.

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