



Welcome to Mrs. Chen's 4th Grade Class



I look forward to having the opportunity to work with your child and get to know him/her better this year. I truly enjoy working with children and helping them grow, gaining knowledge and insight, and watching them become more confident learners. Please feel free to contact me at any time about any questions or concerns. I'm very excited for this year!

A little about me: I grew up in Eugene and Springfield. Then I lived in Phoenix, Arizona for 17 years. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood. A few years later I received my Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on Language and Literacy. I received both my degrees at Arizona State University. I taught first grade for 10 years. The first eight years were at Kyrene de la Sierra in Phoenix and the last two here at Veneta. This will be my second year teaching 4th grade. I'm really looking forward to the challenge and enjoying the growth and minds of these 4th graders.

❖ Our school and classroom rules focus on Being Safe, Being Responsible, and Being Respectful. I believe in creating a classroom family where the students learn in an environment that is safe, respectful, positive, and fun! The students will earn kudos for following school rules, showing good examples, and being a good citizen and classmate. We will be focusing on working together to achieve these goals. We also have a class point system where the class earns points towards a class choice reward. I have high expectations for my students and they always strive to meet that challenge. Routines and procedures are pertinent to create a structured environment that the students can feel safe and confident in. We will spend a lot of time on learning these so the students know what is expected of them.

❖ Transportation- It is very important to start the school year with the child understanding how he/she will be transported to and from school. This helps ease the transitions and organize the class into the correct groups before the end of school too. If your child is going home with a friend or different than normal, please send a note, email, or call giving your child permission. If I do not receive a note, email or call, your child will go home his/her usual way; this is for the safety of your child.

❖ Attendance- If your child is absent; please contact the office as early as possible. If your student will miss school for an extended period of time, please tell me in writing 1 week in advance. This will allow me time to prepare his/her missed lesson for the days of the absences. Previous days' lessons will be available to the students in class. Please help your child to complete the lesson as homework and turn it in the following day after the missed day.

❖ Lunch Options- The children have a few different options for lunch. They may bring a cold lunch and drink, or buy milk at school. No sodas, please. They may also buy lunch at school, with two different options daily. You may set up an account. I also suggest setting up an account, in case there is a change of mind or a forgotten lunch. You can find the menus at <http://www.fernridge.k12.or.us/food-services/> Thank you!

❖ Specials- We have P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. On P.E. days, the children need to wear appropriate clothing and tennis shoes. We will also be running the track on occasion, when the weather permits. Library checkout will be every Tuesday. Please find a safe place for your child's books so they stay away from pets and little ones.

❖ Classwork- Students will be expected to take responsibility for their own classwork and homework. Incomplete or missing work will be made up during our weekly "Study Hall" time or at Recess. Students may not call home if they forgot their homework.

❖ Homework- Homework will be sent on Mondays and will be due back on Fridays. The homework will go home in the Monday Folders. Monday envelopes are due back by Friday. Homework is due on by Friday morning- completed, in the child's best handwriting and returned neat and clean. Homework will consist of daily reading for at least 20 minutes, a short reading response or inquiry, spelling practice, and 1-2 pages of math. Homework will allow for more variety and flexibility. The most important stresses for homework this year is to read EVERY day and math review (as well as math fluency). The 4th grade teachers are trying to make the homework practice relevant and less stressful for the student, the families, and ourselves. 😊 With homework being less intense, we really hope to see that every child can fulfill this homework requirement on time. The 4th grade classes will be using the Pizza Hut Book It Challenge this year for incentive to read daily. For the months of October thru March the students will receive a coupon for a free personal pan pizza if they complete the monthly requirement for reading. We will begin the regular homework packets on Monday, September 8th. However, we will only start with reading for that week. We will add spelling and math the following week. Even though we will not begin giving the full weekly homework for the first few weeks of school, your child is still expected to read daily for 20 minutes or more. This will help them become lifelong learners and continue to help them with their reading skills. Your child should bring a backpack daily to allow for transporting of materials, homework, shoes, and/or lunches.

❖ Important papers- Any important papers, newsletters, and/or graded papers will go home on Mondays in your child's Monday Folders. Please return any forms by Friday in those folders. I will have my class website (blog) updated and synced very soon. This will help keep you informed of our activities. I will let you know as soon as this is ready.

❖ Health Issues- If your child has any allergies or health concerns, please let me know immediately.

❖ Birthdays- Not all students celebrate birthdays and holidays. In order to be respectful and inclusive of all students, we will have minimal birthday celebrations at school. If you feel inclined to send treats, please choose healthy treats from the list provided in the student handbook.

❖ Please do not allow your child to bring toys, balls, or sports equipment to school. It is against school rules. Please label your child's belongings, especially lunch boxes, sweatshirts, and coats so they can be returned if lost. Hundreds of coats, jackets, and sweatshirts are left every year without names and aren't claimed.

❖ In order to make our classroom a positive learning environment, the class needs the least amount of disruptions as possible. If you need to bring something to your child for any reason please bring it to the office and NOT to the classroom. The office will make sure it is put into my box, which I check many times through the day. I know it may seem easier just to bring it to us, but we would love your help in helping us achieve a learning environment with the least amount of disruptions.

I am really excited to spend this year together, getting the opportunity to work with you and your child, getting to know your child, and helping your child grow into a successful lifelong learner. It is very important for me to build the parent teacher relationship and to communicate. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to email or call me. I'm looking forward to a great new year in fourth grade!

Thank you,

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