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# WELCOME TO 4TH GRADE

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# Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Parent Orientation Letter - August, 2018

Mr. Shapero's Website: [www.SteveShapero.com](http://www.SteveShapero.com)



Dear Parents of Mr. Shapero's Class,

Are you sadly waving goodbye to those summer days at the beach? Those nights out on the deck with your barbecue? Those Orioles games at Camden Yards? Well good news! Only about 265 more days until summer! By the way, you can roast that Thanksgiving turkey on the grill (I did it one year), and your cable TV company can probably find some ball game going on in Australia (remember, it will be summer "Down Under" while it's winter up here). I'm looking forward to meeting your children and, under God's direction, teaching and ministering to them throughout the academic year. Your child may enjoy looking at the *Meet Mr. Shapero* photo album under the photo gallery of my website (see header at the top of this letter).

The remaining portion of this letter contains important information regarding fourth grade policies, procedures, and other information you would be interested to know as a parent.



***Please complete and return the following as soon as possible:***

<https://secure.caredox.com/enroll/forcey-christian-school>

1. Logon to Caretox (URL above) to fill out Med. Info for each child attending Forcey
2. Check my website under Parent Information for forms and signups. Link: [www.steveshapero.com](http://www.steveshapero.com)
3. ~~Bring in your tissues (2 large boxes) & Hand Sanitizer~~ *(We have plenty from last year)*

## ***GENERAL INFORMATION***

Please **read the Parent Handbook** noting dismissal and carpool information.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> grade supply list** was included in your report card folder from last year but can also be found on my website on the Parent Information Page. The student's supplies may need to be **replaced throughout the school year**.

## ***ENTERING & EXITING THE BUILDING***

Students and parents are only to enter and exit through the front door near the church office in order to ensure their safety and to meet building security regulations.

## ***HOMEWORK***

Homework will be given on a regular basis and typically averages 40 minutes each night. Your child should be able to complete homework independently. If a child doesn't understand the homework, a parent is certainly encouraged to help their child understand what s/he is to do. What kind of help can a parent provide?



- \* Go over examples together
- \* Enter a written assignment on the computer (but have your child involved in that process, perhaps s/he can do some of the entry)
- \* Help with Internet research
- \* Test on math facts and Bible verses
- \* Help select outside reading materials for the reading calendar
- \* Help brainstorm ideas for projects
- \* Keep in mind that **student writing should be in the student's own words**, reflecting his/her vocabulary and sentence structure; however, parents may critique writing styles and urge students to go back and rewrite certain passages.
- \* Help their child pace him/herself over long-term assignments.
- \* Use thesaurus together.

For the most part, homework is used as practice; it is an extension of what the student learned in class, though writing assignments and the state project do not fall into that category. Homework can also be research oriented such as for the State Project. Outside reading is also part of homework as students must log in their reading activities for their monthly reading calendars. Bible memorization is done on a weekly basis; it is not as meaningful unless the student understands the concept behind the verses, which I discuss in class each time a new verse is introduced.



## ***READING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM***

Students are expected to read at least 20 minutes each weekday (Monday – Friday) to expand their vocabulary and gain exposure to different writing styles. Parents are asked to sign and assist their child fill out the reading calendar (see ***Monthly Reading Calendars*** for more information). **Reading calendar grades** are a major part of student reading grades. Please be sure your child brings a good book to class EVERY DAY so there is something enjoyable to read. Students should typically aim for 1-2 novels each month.

## ***ACADEMIC HONESTY***

As indicated in the parent handbook, students are to produce their own work. This is especially true for projects and writing assignments. Work that has been plagiarized or found to be not of the student's own making is subject to a score of zero. Parents are encouraged to provide support, point out problems in writing, help a student use available resources (such as a thesaurus, computer, the Internet, etc.), but they are never to substitute their own writing for that of the student.

## ***GRADING INFLUENCE***

These are common elements that influence grades, but not limited to the following:

Math:	Periodic tests, quizzes
Language Arts:	Weekly spelling, vocabulary, and reading tests Periodic writing assignments Reading calendars that document reading outside the classroom Poetry Presentation (public speaking, month of February) Informational Presentations with PowerPoint or Google Slides
Bible:	Bible memory verse quizzes, periodic lesson tests
Soc. Studies:	Class assignments, tests, and projects
Science:	Class assignments, tests, science notebooks, labs

Numeric Grades: A+ 98-100 / A 93-97 / A- 90-92 / B+ 87-89 / B 83-86 / B- 80-82  
C+ 77-79 / C 73-76 / C- 70-72 / D+ 67-69 / D 63-66 / D- 60-62 / E 59 or lower.

Graded work is returned in the Friday Folder (see section on Friday Folders) unless otherwise noted through email.

## ***LATE WORK***

Work turned in late will be penalized by 10% if turned in 1 day late, 20% on day 2, 30% on day 3, and 40% on day 4. On day 5 or later, a grade of 0 will be applied.

## ***MISSING WORK DUE TO ABSENCE***

Any requests for work in advance due to an upcoming absence should be **submitted to the teacher, in writing, at least one week in advance**. With enough advanced notice, I can frequently email the parent a link to the work we will be doing prior to your leave. Students with *approved absences* will not be penalized if their work is made up in a timely fashion. Students returning from one or more days of absence should look for homework assigned in their absence. Caution: work not made up in time due to absence can become late work (see preceding section).

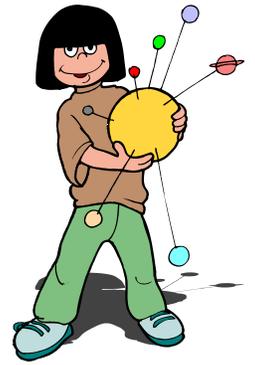
## ***WRITING DOWN ASSIGNMENTS***

Assignment Booklets are provided to each student at the beginning of the year. It is the student's responsibility to copy down both **daily** and **long-term assignments** and **upcoming tests** in their booklets. A fee may be assessed to replace lost assignment booklets. Renweb is available to verify assignments. I recommend the week's view to see details on long-term assignments, which do not show up on a daily basis.



## ***STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES***

- **Follow written directions on the board** upon entering the class.
- **Record** all homework & **assignments**.
- **Follow** written and oral **directions** to the best of your ability.
- **Turn work in on time**.
- **Reread your own written work** *before* turning it in.
- Put on a **proper heading** for all written work (including name and date).
- Communicate with the teacher about **things you don't understand**.
- **Use time productively**. Students are expected to make good use of their classroom time by completing unfinished work and working ahead on long term projects or homework assignments as time permits.



## ***FRIDAY FOLDERS***

All graded work will be sent home in Friday. Students return these folders on Monday mornings. Parents should remove all work from the Friday Folders, except for work for which a parent signature is requested, in which case the parent should return the student work along with their signature.



## ***KEEPING ABREAST OF YOUR CHILD'S WORK***

Besides waiting for papers to emerge in your child's Friday Folder, parents can log on to Renweb to find out (1) current assignments and (2) assignment grades. It is also a valuable tool to keep up with your child's grade point average in any subject. A Renweb tutorial is available on my website.

## **KEEP YOUR CHILD'S WORK IN CASE YOU HAVE A QUESTION**

Please note that I do not retain copies of student work once I have recorded the grade; therefore, I urge parents to keep their child's work for the year in case it becomes important to discuss a particular assignment or test.

## ***COMMUNICATION***

Email is the primary method of communication I use to keep in touch with parents and provide timely information. Be sure your email is up-to-date in Renweb as that is how I will reach you. If you wish to add an email account or change your email, please notify the front office, or you can email me and I will forward your request. I have a Renweb tutorial available on my website. Students are asked to put these in their binder's homework section. Email address: See below "How to Reach the Teach".

## **BIRTHDAYS**

In keeping with school policy, birthdays will be acknowledged but not celebrated with snacks and parties in class.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES** include (but not limited to):  
The Christmas Musical      Poetry Presentations      Holiday Parties  
The State Fair                  Several Field Trips



**THIS YEAR'S 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE EVENTS AND FIELD TRIPS CAN BE FOUND ON THE PARENT ORIENTATION PAGE ON MY WEBSITE.**

[www.SteveShapero.com](http://www.SteveShapero.com) Click on Parent Information, then on Parent Orientation

*(Please note dates are subject to change):*

## **ACTIVITY FEES**

Activity fees cover the expenses of field trips and some supplies to minimize money handling throughout the school year. Items covered by this fee include costs for field trips, classroom holiday celebrations, rulers, classroom treats for good behavior, State Fair supplies, Poetry Presentation reception, student planners, etc.

## **HOW TO "REACH THE TEACH"**

The **best way** to reach me is by my **email** address, [Steve-Shapero@fcs.school](mailto:Steve-Shapero@fcs.school), which I check daily. You can also visit my website at [www.SteveShapero.com](http://www.SteveShapero.com). Email will reach me the quickest, but you may leave a message on the school's voice mail system; my voice mail extension is **718**. I will get back to you as soon as possible.



Mrs. Rohrer can be reached on ext. **704**, and her email address is

[Lynn-Rohrer@fcs.school](mailto:Lynn-Rohrer@fcs.school).

Mrs. Hall can be reached on ext. **706** and her email is

[Christine-Hall@fcs.school](mailto:Christine-Hall@fcs.school).

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** Please see our *Fourth Grade Classroom Behavior Information Sheet*, which explains our policies on rewards and consequences.

**BINDER DIVIDER LABELS:** Label your binder sections: Turn In, Homework, Lang Arts, Math, Social Studies (or SocSt), & Science.



## ***WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL (and what to leave at home)***

Please see our ***Fourth Grade Supply List***, which outlines everything a student will need to bring on the first day of school. Please do **not** have your child bring more than a couple pencils to school; I've seen students who brought their 12 mechanical pencils with them on day 1 only to complain they were lost or stolen just a few days after. I suggest a few pencils in your child's pencil bag, maybe 1 or 2 extra in his/her backpack. Replenish from home as needed. The same goes for notebook paper – put 100 sheets in your child's binder, keep most of it at home, and replenish as needed.

***SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL!*** Several fund raisers are scheduled during the year.

- Annual Fund (information to come)
- At Giant, you can **designate Forcey** as your school for the **A+ Bonus Bucks**. This is done at the beginning of each school year, even though you may have participated last year. Visit customer service or go to ([www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com)).
- Our library will have a book fair in November and a book sale in the spring.
- Restaurants such as Squisito's, Chick-fil-A, and others will sometimes donate proceeds to the school. Look for flyers throughout the year.

### ***DROPPING OFF / PICKING UP:***

- School begins at 8:35am, so students must be in their classes by 8:25am
- If student will be absent, email me.
- Upon arrival, children line up downstairs in the gym.
- If someone else is picking up your child, the student give me a note upon arrival to my classroom.
- If tardy, a parent is to accompany their child to the office if you want it counted as an **excused** tardy.
- Dismissal: Students are to **SHAKE MY HAND** before they leave so I'm aware they are leaving my supervision.



***DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES:*** See behavior policy on my website's Parent Orientation Page.

***HELPING OUR SCHOOL THROUGH PURCHASING:*** A number of options:

- Giant Steps bonus bucks: register at [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com) using school number: 00875
- Box Tops for Education
- Library book fairs throughout the year

***TENNIS SHOES REQUIRED FOR PE (Thursdays at 12:50 just after lunch)***



## ***SPECIAL REMINDERS AND INFORMATION***

1. Your child must bring an **excuse note** to school **after any absence**. **Planned absences** (vacation or other) **must be put in writing** and approved by the principal at least two weeks in advance.
2. At the end of the year, students are responsible to turn in the same textbooks they received at the beginning of the year. ***Book numbers will be checked.***
3. Children who are sick the morning before school must stay at home. They must be **vomit and fever free without meds for 24 hours** (fever = 99.6 or higher) before returning to school. Please follow the **guidelines** for keeping your child home **when ill** as outlined in the Parent Handbook.
4. Please have your **child regularly enter and exit through the front main lobby** doors. Safety patrols will lead students upstairs. Students enter the classroom at 8:25am. School begins promptly at 8:35am, after which your child will be considered tardy. Class ends 3:00pm. **At 3:10, students who have not been picked up** will be taken to **Forcey 360** to wait for their ride. Please be advised that a **fee will be charged to parents for late pickups**. More details in the Parent Handbook.
5. ***Please*** support our **safety patrols** if they ask you to move your vehicle or give directions at drop off or pick up.
6. **Children may not enter parking lots unless accompanied by an adult.**
7. Missed work for **excused** absences must be completed within a reasonable amount of time depending upon the length of the absence. See handbook for details.
8. Missed work for **unexcused** absences is due on the day your child returns to school.
9. Children must be insured for dental and medical coverage (see ***Insurance*** in handbk)
10. Please advise **teachers** and **school office** of all **changes** in address, phone number, or email address.
11. Please **do not purchase book covers that leave the book sticky** when removed. My Parent Orientation webpage provides info on different ways to cover your books using household materials:  
[http://www.steveshapero.com/Parent\\_Orientation\\_Page.html](http://www.steveshapero.com/Parent_Orientation_Page.html)
12. Our librarian reminds us, PLEASE find a place for water bottles OUTSIDE of your child's backpack. Water ruins books. Thank you!
13. Please refer to the Parent Handbook regarding **delayed openings and closings**. (see ***Bad Weather Days***).

I look forward to working with you and your child this year. Please keep our 4<sup>th</sup> grade in your prayers (teachers and students alike) as we strive to honor God through our work and our attitudes.

In His Service,

*Steve Shapero*

Steve Shapero

