

June 2021

Dear St. Rose Families and Friends,

Congratulations to you and your rising 4th grader and **Welcome to Fourth Grade!** I am so excited to welcome you into our fourth grade family as we work together to educate your child during the upcoming school year.

As we begin our summer vacation, I would like to share with you some fun activities and links to websites you can visit to help your child continue to practice and enrich their reading, math and handwriting skills. Daily practice of these key skills will ease their transition into fourth grade and build their self-confidence as the new school year approaches.

Reading Practice Fun:

Attached is a compilation of fourth grade reading lists: books, book series, authors, and genres; both fiction and nonfiction. These resources are only meant as a guide for your child's reading pleasure; they are *not required* books. I have also attached a Reading Log you may use to help your child track the books they have read. While many of these books can be found in your local library, at home and/or online access to these books may be another option.

At this stage of their education, reading both fiction and nonfiction stories will improve their vocabulary and comprehension skills. You will be amazed at how quickly your child's advanced decoding and comprehension skills can improve over the summer with a regular reading routine where your child either reads independently *and/or* you both read together. When you read with your child, it can be ANY book that interests them. When your child is reading independently, it should be a book that can be read aloud by them with very few or no decoding errors. Rereading a book is absolutely fine to improve or sustain fluency; or to improve comprehension. If you are reading together, be sure to discuss the cover of the book before reading to make predictions about the story and to create a *discussion* about the characters, the setting, and perhaps a prediction about the events based on the book's title. After reading, you can have your child retell the story in order, talk about a favorite character, or a favorite story event. In a nonfiction story, after reading, ask your child one or two things they may have learned from the book; find a new vocabulary word or two and discuss its meaning. Have your child write a sentence for each word; this also reinforces spelling and handwriting practice. You may also: discuss word meanings, opposites, rhyming

words, homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently and mean different things: *see/sea; ate/eight.*)

While there is no required number of books your child must read during the summer, it is recommended to read between 10-15 minutes per day (either independently or with a family member.) A reading log is attached to track your progress; remember it's about the *quality* of the reading, not the *quantity* of books read. Most importantly, have fun!

Here are some links to favorite fourth grade book lists:

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/4th-grade-reading-list>

<https://www.greatschools.org/gk/book-lists/favorite-books-for-fourth-graders/>

https://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/4th_grade.shtml

Math Practice Fun:

Incoming fourth grades should have a mastery of their multiplication and division facts through 12 and should continue practicing them daily. Of course, addition and subtraction facts should continue to be practiced for automaticity.

Practice skip counting by numbers 2 through 12- this is a great way to learn your multiples of numbers.

Make a number line on your driveway with chalk. Hop forward as you skip count to any number you choose; hop backwards as you count back to 0; skip counting will help you with identifying and understanding multiples of numbers.

Play cards to practice your multiplication facts. With 2 people, each person turns over a card and the first to answer the multiplication fact wins a point; you can also play in teams.

Have fun cooking in the kitchen: practice your measuring skills and use your fraction knowledge to bake a cake or cookies; prepare your favorite daily meal. Get everyone in the family together for some food frivolity!

Ask your family to save their extra pennie, nickels, dimes, and quarters; even dollars! Practice counting them and make exchanges to understand the value of money. Go shopping! Use money over the summer and count change at the post office, ice cream shop, local convenience store, or while traveling and/or shopping at your favorite store.

Make a shopping list and go food shopping with a family member and practice your rounding/estimating skills to purchase items on your shopping list.

While taking a walk (around the house or outside) or riding in a car, see how many different shapes you can find; identify the shape and try to spell its name.

Make a grid of numbers from 0 to 100. When riding in a car, cross off each number as you see it on a sign, license plate, mailbox, etc. to see how fast you can find all of the numbers.

Handwriting Practice Fun:

Send a postcard to a friend.

Help mom or dad write a shopping list.

Write a special note to a family member.

Write your first and last name, making sure to use uppercase and lowercase letters.

Other “things to do” if you are traveling or busy around town:

Keep a daily journal of places you visit - using a notebook, let your child create a page for each letter of the alphabet. As they enjoy summer activities, let them keep a list of things they do and see. Draw a picture and or write a sentence about your adventures.

Take pictures of your favorite vacation spot(s), friends, family; let your child create a picture book and write their own captions for each photo.

Keep a weekly calendar. Let your child write in the days of the week and then draw/write the activity that is planned for each day; or let them write it later that evening. This is great practice for learning the days of the week; number order.

When traveling around town, the state, or out of state, play the license plate game: see how many states you can find; practice spelling the name, abbreviation; identify the

capital city; name any facts you know about the state and/or city. State puzzles and games are also a great way to “explore” the USA.

Online Websites:

Here are some websites that we have been using in fourth grade to enhance our learning during this past year. Some of these sites are offering free trials for families to explore their sites; have fun exploring some of my favorites:

Epic! Amazing Children's Books: <https://www.getepic.com>

Fiction and Nonfiction Leveled by DRA; videos, activities.

Readworks: <https://www.readworks.org> (FREE)

I have attached a summer reading activity packet from this site.

Education.com/Brainzy: <https://www.education.com>

Offer summer boost activities in Math and ELA skills; games.

Freckle.com: <https://freckle.com>

Math and ELA skills practice.

Xtramath: <https://www.xtramath.org>

Math skills practice.

Highlights@Home: <https://www.highlights.com/highlights-at-home>

_____Miscellaneous ideas for summer fun.

Summer Skills

Here is some important information that was posted in our recent School Newsletter:

We will be offering skill practice workshops for incoming Kindergarten through grade 2 with Mrs. Heyder, July 12-15. Incoming grades 3-5 can sign up for a skills workshop with Mrs. Winington, July 12-15 and July 19-22.

Barnes and Noble offers a series by Flash Kids Editors, in association with Harcourt Family Learning (Harcourt is one of the publishers that we have used over the years for many of our textbooks in grades K-5). They offer all-in-one workbooks, which have a variety of curriculum areas at a specific grade level; you can purchase workbooks that have targeted practice for a specific skill (separate books for each: math, reading, spelling, language arts, and writing). They even have one for cursive writing practice. These books are available for \$6.95 each.

They also have a series of mini workbooks, with even more specific practice, for example time and money in math. This mini series also includes Math Drills and Sight Words. These books are available for \$3.95 each. Flash Kids offers good old fashion flashcards, which can be good

for practice away from the screen and books. These are available for \$3.95-\$5.95 each. You might consider two sets for creating learning games at home. They have Test Prep workbooks for most grade levels. These are available for \$5.95-\$9.95 each. Finally, they have their own brand of summer bridge books for transitioning from one grade to another. These are available for \$9.95. It seems the offerings at Barnes and Noble are more extensive and provide more options, especially if you have a specific skill in mind that you would like your child to practice over the summer. If you are interested in the original Summer Bridge Books by Summer Bridge Activities Publishers; they are more expensive at Barnes & Noble, over \$13.00 each; it is recommended to try Amazon at \$8.48 per book. Our preference though is the Barnes and Noble books and flashcards; many teachers have used these for extra help in classrooms over the years; and for extra tutoring support. The flashcards are nicely laminated and durable; the workbooks offer more practice than the traditional bridge books. If you are looking for a program for the summer, Kumon is a great choice! We have a number of our students, from all grade levels, that have been students at Kumon. Mary Kate Gordon, one of our second grade parents, operates the Newtown Center and she also owns and operates a center in Danbury.

Wishing you a summer filled with safety, peace and joy!

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