



Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

Welcome to 4th grade at Pacific Elementary School! I have many goals for this year. One goal is to provide a friendly, engaging, and challenging learning environment in our classroom in order for your child to thrive by combining theory and practice. Another goal is to build an open, communicative relationship with all of our families to create a positive community of learning and growing.

You are the most important people in your child's life and we need to work together for his/her benefit. Your child will be busy learning so many new things this year and I would greatly appreciate your support of my behavioral and academic expectations.

Please review the following pages so that you will start the year informed about some of the basic procedures and expectations in our class. More information will be given at Back to School Night on Thursday, September 12th.

Thank you very much for allowing me to be part of your child's educational experience! It is a job I take very seriously.

Warmly,
Dr. Felix

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL!**

PART ONE: POINTS, PANTHER PRAISE, and PANTHER PAUSE

This is the first step in the classroom management system:

1. Individual students start the day with a clean slate.
2. As the day progresses, Dojo Points and Panther Praises are awarded to students who exhibit superior behavior.
3. Conversely, Panther Pauses are noted for students who are not on task or not following classroom rules. This is a reminder for the student to check their behavior.
4. At the end of every month, students can pick from the treasure box for every ten Dojo points for individual awards such as picking a seat partner for a day, lunch with the teacher, and many other little prizes.
5. The accumulation of Panther Pauses have the following consequences for the student:
 - 1st: Verbal warning (minor Pause documented by teacher)
 - 2nd: Panther Pause sent home to parent (minor Pause)
 - 3rd: Call home to parent and conference with Mrs. Steinberg. (Major Pause)

Examples of Behaviors That Can Earn POINTS and/or PANTHER PRAISES	Examples of Behaviors That Can Earn a PANTHER PAUSES	Examples of Rewards
Being on task	Being off task	Sit next to a friend for a day
Raising your hand to speak	Talking out of turn	Lunch with the teacher
Treating people with respect	Taking another student's property	Take your shoes off
Giving a compliment	Name calling	Small trinkets
Working quietly	Disturbing seat or table partners	Use flexible seating all day
Using appropriate language	Using inappropriate language	Have iPad time during DLR
Following directions	Not following directions	Choose your class job
Following class rules	Breaking a class rule	Positive note home

PART TWO: Class Marbles and Table Points

The second step of the classroom management program includes "Marbles and Table Points." This is designed to reward the entire class or table for positive behavior. Some examples of rewarded behaviors are when the class/table lines up quietly, is on task during independent work time, or the entire class/table has their agenda books signed. When the whole class is rewarded, they will receive a tally mark on the board. Tally marks can be taken away for disruptive behavior. On Fridays, the tally marks turn into scoops of marbles in a jar. Once the marbles are in the jar, they cannot be removed. When the jar is full, the class will vote on a small reward. Separately, tables can earn dojo points. The table with the most points at the end of the week receives a small reward such as wobble stools, seat cushions or lunch with the teacher.

Fourth Grade Rewards and Consequences

Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

We are looking forward to an exciting and successful year with you and your child. We have many wonderful things to learn and explore.

Fourth grade is a very busy, productive, and fun-filled year for the students. It is also a pivotal year, as they make the transition to a much larger class and longer day. Since all students deserve the most positive educational climate possible, during the first weeks of school we will spend a good deal of our time in the classroom discussing and practicing classroom rules and procedures, Panther PRIDE traits, student rights and responsibilities, and teacher expectations. We also think it is important that the parents understand what is expected of the students in the classroom.

Attached you will find the fourth grade's classroom management plan. This two-part plan includes both an individual and group component with appropriate rewards and consequences for each. Please read through the information, discuss it with your child, then sign and return the form below.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher. Thank you!

Sincerely,
The 4th Grade Team

Please sign and return the bottom portion only.

I have read and discussed the fourth grade classroom management plan with my child. I understand the effectiveness of this plan depends on the support and communication of the parents, student, and teacher.

Child's Name: _____ Date: _____

Child's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Fourth Grade Homework Policy

Homework provides practice for the student as well as important feedback for the teacher about students' progress. Parents and students, please review and follow the following guidelines for fourth grade homework success!

1. **Quantity:** Students will have about 40 minutes of homework as stated in the district homework guidelines, Monday through Thursday, which includes their 20 minutes of nightly reading. If a reading passage is not specifically assigned, the student should read recreationally. Nightly reading is essential, so please encourage your child by providing interesting books, magazines, or other print material for him or her. Students will complete book buzzes throughout the year in lieu of a monthly reading log.
2. **Organization:** Students have been provided with an agenda where they will write down their daily homework assignments. This agenda will be taken home each night along with the homework binder, checked and signed by the parent, then returned to school the next day.
3. **Timeliness:** It is important for homework to be turned in on time. If not completed, the student may lose the opportunity to correct their work and obtain teacher feedback and concept reinforcement.
4. **Missing Homework:** Incomplete or missing homework will be done by the student on the "bench" at recess. If the student cannot complete the homework at recess, they will receive a Minor Panther Pause to return with the homework the next day. Late marks will affect the "Effort" grade on the report card.
5. **Absences:** If a student is absent, extra time to complete the classwork and homework will be given. The fourth grade teachers understand that there may *occasionally* be an *emergency* situation that prevents a student from completing homework. Parents, if this occurs, please send the teacher a note and more time will be given. **Please note, classwork and homework will NOT be sent home before or during an absence unless an independent study form is completed in the office (5 or more days absent). Students will be given time to complete missed work once they return.**
6. **Effort:** Homework is an opportunity for the student to continue to develop responsibility, organization, and self-discipline that will ensure his or her success in the years to come. Enough effort should be put into the homework for the student to practice the concepts reviewed. Accuracy is more important than speed. Sometimes the child will need to reread, ponder, or struggle a bit to do his or her best. Recent studies have shown that the brain works best when it is focused on one task at a time. Students, please work in a quiet place and save music, computer, and TV for when your homework is finished.
7. **Parent Involvement:** Parents, please look over your child's assignment(s) and help briefly, but resist doing the work or providing answers for him or her. If he or she truly doesn't understand the work, please contact the teacher for clarification via a note, phone call, or email. Please resist bringing forgotten homework to school for your child. If a student forgets the homework, he or she will accept the natural consequences and hopefully learn to be more responsible in the future.

Please sign and return the bottom portion only.

My child and I have read and understood the Fourth Grade Homework Policy.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____