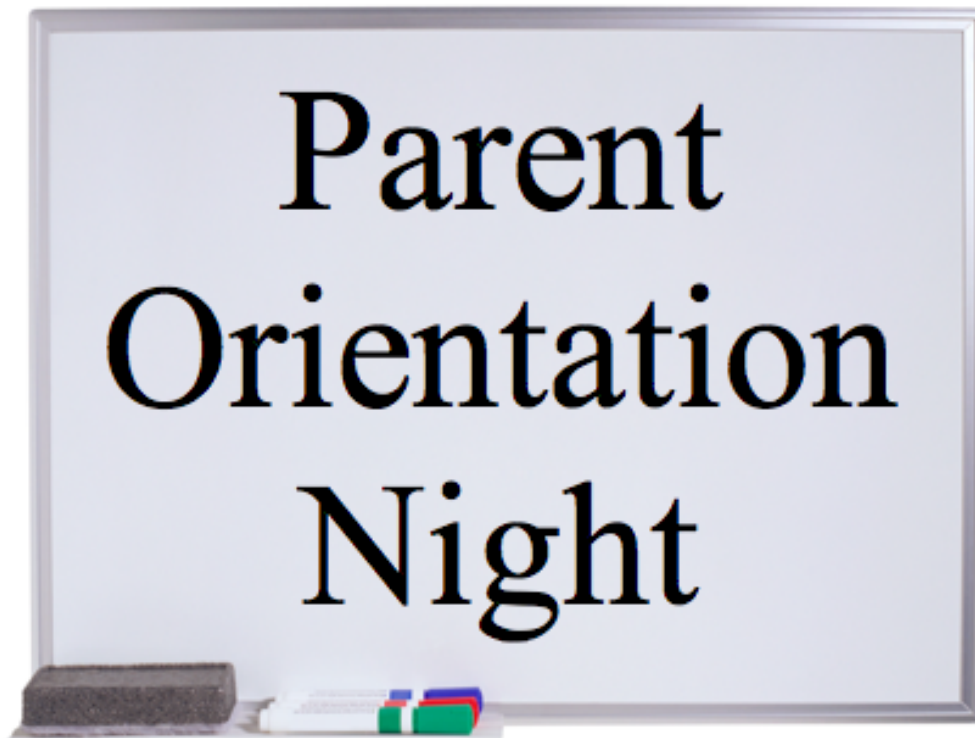


Question & Answer Time

Parents sign up for a virtue week before leaving!

American Preparatory Academy



4th Grade

August 24, 2019

**Ms. Cain, Mrs. Carroll, Ms. Young, Mrs.
Foster, Mrs. Gardner**

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Fourth Grade Goals

All students will:

- Read fluently (at least 144 wpm) with comprehension.
- Develop written expression skills through expository, narrative, descriptive, poetry, and journal writing.
- **Master all basic math facts** and be able to use those facts accurately for computation and problem solving.
- Be able to speak in front of his/her peers with poise and confidence.
- Learn about important people and events in history and science, place these people and events chronologically on a timeline, and understand the roles and significance of each.
- Develop research and reference skills.
- Learn to use their time wisely by planning long-range projects and bringing them to completion (including one major project and essay and two major at-home book reports).
- Learn to work and play cooperatively and take leadership roles occasionally.

Guidelines for Success

- Always try
- **Be responsible**
- Cooperate with others
- **Do your best**
- Everyone (including yourself) is treated with dignity and respect

Classroom Rules

1. Come to class on time with all materials and supplies, prepared to learn and participate.
2. Show respect to yourself, others, our classroom, and supplies.
3. Follow directions immediately, the first time given.
4. Control yourself—voice and body.
5. Strive for excellence in all you do.

Other textbooks and programs we will be using include:

English and Grammar:	<u>The Shurley Method</u>
Writing:	APA Writing Program
Reading:	Horizons, Reading Mastery Program, LBDI Program
Math:	<u>Saxon Math</u> and APA Core Math
Spelling:	Spalding Spelling Program
Vocabulary	Voracious Vocabulary
History/Science:	<u>What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know*</u> / Core Knowledge
Poetry/Literature:	<u>What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know*</u>
Music/Art:	<u>What Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know*</u>
Logic:	<u>Building Thinking Skills</u>
Classics**:	<u>Pollyanna, And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Robin Hood, Treasure Island, Robinson Crusoe, Gulliver's Travels, King Arthur, Rip Van Winkle</u>

*All fourth-grade students should have their own copy of this book in their home.

**These classics will be used during literature time.

Books/Lost Books

Students have been issued textbooks, and in some cases, workbooks and skill books. These materials have inventory numbers placed on them. Your child has been instructed on certain materials to write his name inside for identification purposes. These numbers have been recorded to further keep track of our curriculum materials. Your child has also been instructed on the proper care and treatment of these materials. At the end of the school year, these materials will be gathered to be used again. Please encourage your child to take good care of his or her materials.

Any damaged or lost books will need to be paid for so they can be replaced.



Attendance Plan

In accordance with APA's school-wide policy:

1. If a student is unable to attend school, a parent or guardian should call the school on the day of the absence before 8:15 a.m. to report the absence.
2. If a student will be absent, for a special purpose that is known in advance, a parent will fill out a "Scheduled Absence Plan" and submit it to school administration.
3. Students who are absent for more than **ten consecutive days** of school may be removed from the enrolled student list at APA.

Classroom Management Plan

As in all classrooms, a reward and consequence plan is in place. Part of the American Preparatory mission statement is, "to provide an orderly, safe, and nurturing learning environment..." To help maintain this environment, CHAMPs is the school-wide behavior management model used at APA. The first week of school will be spent explicitly teaching the CHAMPs procedures for each activity. Below, you will see a sample of how the CHAMPs procedures work.

Independent Work

C (Conversation)	12-inch whisper only if you have a question about the assignment, only to those seated next to you, and only for a minute
H (Help)	Raise hand in seat Keep working
A (Activity's Purpose)	Complete your assignment
M (Movement)	Get a pencil Hand in/pick up materials
P (Participation)	Look at paper Work on assignment
S (Smile/Success)	Always have a positive attitude and try your best

In our personal experience with CHAMPs, we have found when students are instructed on exactly what is expected of them, they typically rise above our expectations.

In our classroom, we also have a classroom card chart. Consistent use of the card chart enables students to control their behavior and monitor their progress. Each student has five cards: green, yellow, blue, red, and purple. The goal is for each student to "remain on green." Students are periodically rewarded for staying on green. Please discuss with your child the importance of staying on green for the intrinsic rewards of confidence, gratification, and other characteristics associated with success.

The card move infractions are listed below:

- 1 – Learning Plan Not Signed
 - 2 – Uniform Infraction
 - 3 – Restroom Infraction
 - 4 – Tardy
 - 5 – Recess Infraction
 - 6 – Missing Materials
 - 7 – Missing Work
 - 8 – Not Following Directions
 - 9 – Disruptive
 - 10- Disrespectful
- SOC (Sent Out of Class)

*This means your student was sent to discuss his or her infraction with an administrator.

Consequences for card moves:

No card moves (“on green”)—praise and an occasional reward from the teacher

1st card move (“on yellow”)—five minutes loss of recess

2nd card move (“on blue”)—ten minutes loss of recess

3rd card move (“on red”)—loss of one recess

4th card move (“on purple”)—parent or administrative intervention

On the daily learning plan, you will notice an oval marked with a color or letter. This is an indicator of your child’s card color at the end of the day. For example, if a student moved cards to red on Friday, you would find a red dot in the oval or the letter “R.” This helps the teacher communicate to parents the number of cards that have been moved. If for some reason your child doesn’t have a dot on his or her learning plan, this likely means your child did not have his or her learning plan checked by our instructor, or the “green dotter” student missed marking all of the learning plans at the end of the day. If your child does not have a color on his or her learning plan, please email me, and I will gladly tell you your child’s color for that day. If the word “copy” is written on the top of the learning plan, this means your student either lost or replaced his or her original learning plan.

Uniform Policy Enforcement

Students will not be allowed in class unless their dress adheres to the dress code. Parents will be called to bring appropriate clothing or take the student home to get appropriate clothing if the student is out of uniform. Please refer to the uniform chart in the classroom or front office. **Lost nametags will cost \$5 for tag and magnet, and \$1 for a magnet.**

Learning Plan Procedure

On Mondays, each student will be given a new learning plan. Most of the information will be filled out with class activities and any applicable homework. At the end of each subject, students are instructed to take out their learning plans, and we go over it together. By modeling and checking the learning plans, we are ensuring the learning plan is filled in properly. **Parents should review their child's learning plan each evening and sign it AFTER the homework listed on the learning plan is completed.** Group teachers will also use the learning plan to communicate to you if your child wasn't prepared for class. If this happens, please see that your child completes and returns any missing work quickly. Some parents have found that stapling missing work to the learning plan is an effective reminder to turn the work in.

All students are required to bring a parent-signed learning plan each morning. Students who come unprepared without a signed learning plan will be instructed to move a card for being unprepared. The reason the student is asked to move a card is because the student has the responsibility to bring his or her learning plan to a parent after completing any homework each day. The parent then has the responsibility to take time to review the learning plan, verify whether all homework is complete, and then sign the learning plan. This communication tool helps ensure homework is fully completed each day. Many times when a student comes unprepared without a homework assignment, we look to see if the learning plan was signed, and often it was not. **As parents sign learning plans, they are communicating with us that they have SEEN the finished homework and are providing their child with the time and environment to complete it.**

In line with APA policy, fourth graders will typically have homework each day in math, in reading, and occasionally in some homeroom subjects. Students are also expected to complete at least 20 minutes per day of independent reading from our Reading University list.

ALMA Gradebook System

APA uses an online program called ALMA to track each student's grades. This program allows parents to view their child's current grades in all subjects at any time. Teachers are expected to have any new assignments graded and entered into the program within 48 hours of the student turning in the work (excluding weekends). This program also allows parents to see whether their child has any missing work at any given time. If you have any questions about your child's grade in any subject, please contact me so we can discuss your concerns. If needed, most assignments and tests may be redone once for a higher grade. **It is VERY important that you register for ALMA by the first week of school. You need to contact the front office or an administrator to sign up!**

Instructions Regarding the Docket and Its Proper Use

Each student at American Preparatory has been given a docket full of color-coded folders. Each folder is labeled with a subject. The docket is a wonderful tool to teach students organizational

skills, which will benefit them their whole life through. When students have loose papers in their desks, they are reminded “every paper has a home,” and they may be asked to stay in during recess to sort through and correctly file those loose papers. Books are not allowed in the docket, as they stretch and ruin the docket seams. The students have been taught proper care of the docket. Carrying docket by the elastics would not fall into the proper care category. Please help us ensure your child’s docket will last from year to year by reminding your child to take good care of it. **If a student’s docket becomes damaged or unusable, parents must replace it.** These docket can be purchased from the front office for \$10. Since student docket are required to be exactly the same (the reason being similar to the reasoning behind our uniform policy), parents may not provide a “close substitute” as a replacement.

Fourth Grade History & Geography Scope and Sequence

Exploring Maps	Chinese Dynasties
Mountains	American Revolution
Europe in the Middle Ages	The U.S. Constitution
Early Islamic Civilizations	Early Presidents (Washington through Jackson)
African Kingdoms	American Reformers

Fourth Grade Science Scope and Sequence

Geology—Earth Science	Organisms in Environment
Layers of the Earth	Animal’s Environment
Plate Tectonics and Pangaea	Plant’s Environment
Types of Plate Movement	Rocks and Minerals
Mariana Trench	Weathering
Earthquakes	Rock Cycle
Volcanoes	Soil and Ground Layers
Hot Springs and Geysers	Animal Report
How Mountains Form	
Energy	Fossils
What is Energy?	Mineral Replacement
Energy and Motion	Impression Fossils
Energy Transfer	Animal Extinction
Circuits	Sky Patterns
Collisions	The Sun and the Sky
Energy Transformation	Brightness of the Sun
Waves	Earth’s Revolution
Waves Transfer Energy	Earth’s Rotation
Sound Waves	Constellations
Light Waves	Circulatory System
Waves to transfer information	Heart
Organisms in Environment	Pulse
Cells and Tissues	Blood
Organs and Systems	Red Blood Cells
Function and Survival	Platelets
Human hearing and vision	Blood Transfusions
Environment	Blood Vessels
Food Chain	Aorta/Healthy Heart
	Respiratory System
	Nose, Pharynx, Larynx
	Trachea/Bronchi
	Gas Exchange
	Healthy Lungs

Reading University

Reading University is strictly an outside-of-class reading program. **Each student in our class will be required to read two books from the Reading University list and one grade-level-appropriate book of choice per term (a total of THREE books per term). Each student is also responsible for recording these books on his or her Reading University log and attaining the required parent verification signatures.** Reading University is graded as part of your child's report card. Students should be reading at least 20 minutes each day. Please encourage your child to read, especially aloud! **Fourth graders should be reading a minimum of 144 words per minute by the end of the year.** Also, students will be required to complete **two independent book reports** during the school year on a Reading University book of choice. These are a HUGE part of their writing grades in Term 2 and Term 4.

Virtue Program

Each student will be assigned a virtue week. During that week, the student's virtues will be spotlighted. Parents will also have an opportunity to come in and share with the class some of the virtues their child possesses. We ask that parents help their child prepare a virtue poster if possible. This poster can have pictures, words, drawings, etc. and should focus on the student's virtues. The poster should be brought to school on the Monday of your child's assigned week so it can be hung in our classroom for all to enjoy. The student may then take the poster home at the end of the week.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please take a look at our volunteer wish list, and please sign up for any and all items you might be able to help with. If you come to the school and have time to donate (even 10 or 15 minutes), please stop by. Teachers almost always have something that needs to be graded, copied, filed, or worked on. We are extremely grateful for our parent volunteers because they add immeasurable value to each student's educational experience. Thank you in advance for all you do. We truly couldn't do it without you!

Free Access to All National Parks!

The U.S. Department of the Interior is offering a free one-year pass to all fourth graders and their families for access to hundreds of national parks, lands, and waters! The only catch is the fourth grader must be present during the visit. Each fourth grader simply needs to visit <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/get-your-pass/> to register and print a pass. The physical pass must be with you each visit—electronic passes don't work. Since our fourth grade curriculum has a strong focus on Utah, geology, and animal biomes, we encourage you to use this phenomenal opportunity to take some fun family field trips!

Dear Parents,

The following are important items you should be aware of:

- Open communication between parent and teacher is very important. Remember to take your concerns to the person most able to help and **no one else**. Although your child will have group teachers, the classroom teacher is ultimately responsible for your child's education this year. If you ever need to talk with the teacher about your child, please feel free to contact them via email or phone. Email is usually the fastest way to get in touch with teachers during school hours because they check their email multiple times a day.
- Please help your child understand the importance of education. Homework is NOT an option, but it is a tool to reinforce concepts taught at school and it is required.
- My focus is to build a strong educational foundation for your child whereby he may feel success and satisfaction. With proper home support, this goal can be met.
- Please help your child come to school on time, prepared with all homework and materials, and ready to learn. This includes having an organized docket and learning plan signed by a parent or guardian each day.
- Weekly Reading Fluency selections come home each Monday stapled to the learning plan. These are to be completed each evening and are collected the following Monday.
- Three book reports will be assigned this year. The first two will be done in class. The third will be an At-Home book report where the students will work on this entire report at home. Directions will be given when this is assigned.

I feel confident that as student, parent, and teacher work together, this will be a fantastic year at APA! Thank you for all your help. I look forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,

Your 4th grade teachers!