

Dear Parents,

I am your child's teacher for religion, language, spelling, reading and social studies. Your child has Mrs. Miller for mathematics and science. Written homework is usually given Monday through Thursday in language and less frequently in the other subjects that I teach. Some homework may not be written, but rather to study the material covered that day. This is especially the case with social studies. All assignments must be neatly done with the proper heading and on wide-lined paper. Good penmanship is expected at all times. Failure to complete homework will result in a late (pink) slip coming home for your signature and time in from recess.

Tests in each subject are given at the completion of units, stories or chapters. Completed tests in language, social studies and religion will be sent home that day for your signature. Periodically, I will sent home packets of paper for you to look over. Please sign tests and paper packets and return them to school the next day.

Here is a rundown of my subjects and expectations.

**RELIGION :** Emphasis is on the seven sacraments. There are frequent chapter tests. The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent. The family life/sexuality program is covered in the fourth quarter. You will be given the opportunity to look over this book before it is taught. You will be expected to teach some of the sexuality material in the privacy of your own home using a parent book. Your child has many opportunities to plan and take an active part in many liturgies and prayer services during the year, including the annual Triduum observance during Holy Week.

**SPELLING:** A list of twenty-five words (20 basic words and five more challenging words) is given each week. These lists follow phonetic themes. Pretests are given each Monday (or first day of the week) and post-tests are on Fridays. Assignments are due on Thursdays. Two grades are recorded each week - homework grade and test grade.

**READING:** Our new reading series focuses throughout the year on these strategies: predict/infer, phonics/decoding, monitor/clarify, question, evaluate and summarize. Students are graded on comprehension and a variety of reading skills with each story. Worksheets and workbook pages are done to practice and master each skill. Book reports are expected as a part of reading class. Students are to read a minimum of 400 pages each quarter if possible. They may report on their books either by doing a simple one-page report or by taking a computer test on the Scholastic Reading Counts program. Please let me know if 400 pages per quarter are unrealistic for your child.

**LANGUAGE:** We study grammar with such topics as subjects, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, objects, infinitives, etc. We do Daily Oral Language each day at the chalkboard to use these skills learned. I also emphasize creative writing in the forms of prose, poetry and letter-writing.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** Emphasis is on United States history from the earliest explorers to the presidency of Andrew Jackson. Tests do require some memory work as well as demonstrating skills learned. Study guides and vocabulary words are given for each chapter. It is important for your child to master both. They will do well only if they study and review what we do in class. Students having difficulty on social studies tests are able to bring up a low grade (below 77%) by retaking the test. The retake test is different but covers the same material. I then average BOTH test grades for the final score on that chapter. Both scores count equally. On many days we discuss current events. I encourage students to watch or listen to the local, national and world news and to read the newspaper.

My goal is to help your child be successful in the school setting. I will do whatever I can to help. Good communication between home and school is vital. Please email me at school or call me at home (734-9540) if you feel the need. I'm always open to suggestions from you. I'm still learning, even in this, my thirty-seventh year of being a teacher or principal in our diocesan schools. I am excited about this school year! I hope your children are too. I thank you and ask God to bless each of you!

Sincerely,

Ken Wydeven