

Dear Families,

We are very excited to have your children in fourth grade next year. As everyone prepares for a well deserved break, we would like to take an opportunity to help set your child up for success. It is very important that each incoming 4th grader enters as prepared as he/she can. Doing so will help to prevent the “summer slide.”

Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2.5 years behind! All children may fall victim to the “summer slide” if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the “summer slide” or even accelerate reading growth?

Be sure your child reads **at least** 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute per day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of 6th grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words. That’s huge! If reading isn’t one of your child’s priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program. The public libraries have wonderful summer reading programs!

Students are expected to be fluent with multiplication facts (1-10) at the end of third grade. In fourth grade we will be learning 2 and 3 digit multiplication and long division. Having basic facts memorized will make it possible for students to be successful with these and other advanced processes. Not having the basic facts memorized will make learning these concepts very difficult.

What is math fact fluency? Math fact fluency is the ability for students to recall basic facts quickly, accurately and effortlessly. It would take a student ages to write a paper if they had to look up the spelling of each individual word. In the same way, lack of fact fluency can slow down student’s processing of more complex math problems. Research shows the importance of fact fluency as the foundation for more difficult math, and even as a predictor of future math success.

Here’s how you can study this summer:

- Work on your “*Going into 4th Grade Summer Packet*” given to you by your 3rd grade teacher.
- Focus on one number at a time until you know it really well.
- 0’s, 1’s, 5’s and 10’s are the facts that can be learned the quickest.
- Quiz your child at home, in the car, on the plane, or anywhere!
- Buy flash cards at the Dollar Store or make your own out of index cards.
- Skip count out loud or practice writing it down. Example: 3, 6, 9, 12 . . . 7, 14, 21 . . .
- Access online math games.

We are looking forward to a great year! Thank you so much for your continued support. Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy reading and practicing those math facts.

Sincerely,

The Cherry Road School Fourth Grade Teachers

