Richardson 4th Grade Social Studies and Science

**Bell Work**

Athletes warm up before an event. Bell work provides a “warm up” time to get students ready to learn for the day. Our 4th grade bell work is the same every week.

The social studies side of the paper has very SHORT paragraphs with about 3 questions and short answers. They cover reading comprehension, basic math computation, and new vocabulary from *Ohio Dailies*.

The other side is from *Science 4 Today* and covers science as inquiry, physical science, life science, earth and space science, science and technology, science in personal and social perspectives, and history and the nature of science.

The students are given the bell work first thing on Monday and are expected to work on it as soon as they sit at their seats. They have all week to answer both sides of the paper. On Friday both sides are checked for **EFFORT**, not accuracy. Children are not expected to always know everything, however they are expected to think about and give their best answer. Blank or “I don’t know” answers are marked wrong. The answers need to be related to the question.

 Questions and answers are discussed on Friday and students are expected to correct their papers with their red marking pens. Papers are collected and a score of 0-4 for each side is given based on the **EFFORT** the student has put into the work. This effort score is recorded in Progress Book for a grade.

**Social Studies**

We have new content standards and a new test. Actually 1 test taken two different sessions, one in March and the other in May. All state standardized tests will be online.

We will keep a 3 ring binder with dividers for the topics in Geography, History, Government, and Economics. This becomes an important study tool for the test.

The text is called *Ohio in the United States* published by Jarrett Publishing Company. Unfortunately there is only 1 class set per building so these books will not be able to leave the room. However, everything your child will need to study for tests will be in his/her notebook and a study guide provided in paper and on our website.

**Science**

Everyone will have a district issued science book in which some of our standards are covered. Since not all standards are in this text, other resources will be utilized to make sure all content is covered. The three ring binder has dividers for the topics of earth science, physical science, and life science. There is NO state standardized test for 4th grade in science. As in social studies, study guides on paper and on the website are provided for tests.

Due to the nature of the subjects, there is no regular nightly homework. Unfinished classroom assignments become homework. I will endeavor to put all graded assignments into Progress Book as they are assigned. I do my best to keep up with Progress Book and give feedback as soon as possible.

**Grading**

All grades are figured as points. Some papers may have items worth ½ points, while others may have double points. Test questions are worth 5 points each. The goal is for students to learn the material. Tests that have less than 70% will either be retaken or corrections made to ensure understanding. Corrections are written out in paragraph form and are done at school with teacher assistance. Students write out the question. In complete sentence format, students write what their answer was, and why it is wrong. Then the student writes the correct answer and explains why this is correct. When students use this method, they comprehend the concept and keep it in long term memory.

I look forward to a great year with your child!

 Mrs. Bruce