

# Back to School Night



Mr. Brewer  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
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# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Teacher: Mr. Brewer      Grade: 4      Room: 51

## GOALS AND PHILOSOPHY

I believe school should be a safe, inviting place where children can learn and feel safe to voice their opinions and feelings. My goal is to provide your child with a learning environment that will help them to maximize their abilities to their greatest potential. I feel this can best be accomplished in a warm, fun classroom and by developing a trusting relationship with your child.

## CLASS STANDARDS

- *Consider other's Rights: Keep your hands, feet, and all objects to yourself.*
- *Work for the best possible outcomes! Develop a positive attitude that all things can be worked out.*
- *Be a Responsible person! Complete all work assigned and even do extra work.*
- *Be a Respectful person! Be concerned about others feelings as well as your own!*
- *Be a Kind person! Treat others as you would wish to be treated.*
- *Every action is a choice and with that choice comes either a positive outcome or a negative consequence*

## ABSENCES

It's important for everyone to be at school as often as possible. When an absence must occur, I will ask students to make up all major assignments. Your child will have the same amount of days to make-up work they missed due to illness. For example, if they were absent two days, upon their return they will have two days to make up the work. Failure to complete the work will result in a "0". **The student must still complete the assignment and turn it in!**

It is also extremely important that your child arrives at school on time and is in a state of mind that will enable him/her to be at their best. Getting up in the morning, on time and arriving before school starts is an important part of each child's responsibility. Chronic tardiness sets a pattern that is difficult to break later in life. It also disrupts the office and the classroom.

## BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

I believe that every child has the ability to behave in an appropriate manner. I also believe that every child has the right to make his or her own decisions. However, the child must learn that making the wrong decisions may lead to some form of discipline.

## INCENTIVES

An important part of my classroom is to recognize appropriate school behavior. I feel that this promotes a positive self-image and motivates learning. I also believe that children should act a particular way because it's the right way to behave and that it promotes good overall character. While I feel the importance of recognizing students for proper behavior, I also feel its important that children recognize the need to behave and strive for success because they want to not simply to receive an award.

## HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

I believe that communication between parents and their child's teacher is vital in maintaining a successful learning program. Each week your child will get up to date feedback on his/her weeks work and this will be sent home for your inspection. This will come home in the form of a Weekly Performance Summary Sheet. This paper will be filled out by you and your child and returned the next day. This will help keep you up to date and in touch. One other way to maintain a clear academic picture as to how your child is doing in school is through the online grading system. Using a username and password provided by me at the beginning of the school year, you have an up to the minute student performance and evaluation tool right at your fingertips. (Please look on the classroom website across the top and find "Grades." The best way to get in touch with me is via e-mail. I check it often throughout the day. My email address is ([mbrewer@tvusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mbrewer@tvusd.k12.ca.us)). We also have a classroom website that can be located at: <http://www.mrbrewerskids.com>.

## HOMEWORK POLICIES

Students will have nightly homework through out the week. **Remember that most homework assignments are extensions of activities already completed in class. Most if not all homework in this class will have been started in class and will need to be completed upon arriving at home.** Assignments are sent home and are typically due the following morning. Students should plan on 30-60 min of homework each night.(District Recommendation) This includes reading for at least 20 minutes a night. Homework should be done in a quiet place where little outside noise or distractions can occur. The best place would be a spot in their own bedroom where they won't have interruptions, or others bothering them. My goal is to have your student accept responsibility for their own learning and there fore they will be the primary person responsible for making sure work is completed and turned in on time. You may still choose to have your students show you what they have completed, but if they have questions about their homework please refer them back to me for the answer. This will help them understand the importance of paying attention in class and the need for them to ask questions when they don't understand something.

## SPECIAL CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Our theme this year is "Celebrate What's Right!" We tend to get caught up in the trivia of everyday life and forget that we need to focus on the positive things going on around us, rather than those things going wrong. It's so easy to criticize or make a negative comment to one another. We need to shift our thinking and focus on what people are doing well and less on what they need to improve on.

## Creating Homework Success

Homework is an extension of class work and an important part of your child's learning. You can help your child to be successful by:

1. Be sure your child's binder is neatly organized and ready to use.
2. Most Importantly: Create a private space preferably in your child's own room for homework to be done. Make sure that your child has everything they need in this space in order to be successful. (Dictionary, pencils, pens, crayons, ruler etc.)
3. Create a **CONSISTENT TIME** for homework to be done. Make sure that you set a 1 hour limit in which to complete the homework, except when a project or test requires extra attention.
4. **STAY OUT OF THEIR ROOM DURING THIS TIME!**
5. If they ask for assistance, make sure their request is a valid one and not simply a way to get you to do it for them.
6. If they are still stuck have them call one of their "Study Buddies" for assistance.
7. Remember it's your child in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and not you. This is their job and they must learn to do things for themselves.



# Mr. Brewer's Daily Schedule

8:55 - 9:05

Opening/Attendance/Daily to do's

9:05 - 10:15

Math

10:15 - 11:00

Language Arts

11:00 - 12:00

Grammar/Vocabulary



Integrated skills and word study, summarize,  
Brainstorming/Modeled  
Writing/Structured (Core) Writers Workshop



Lunch - 12:00 - 12:40

Core Lit - 12:40 - 1:15

Interventions TBD

Reading - 1:15 - 1:55

Computer  
Lab

Fri - TBD

Library

Fri - TBD

The above schedule is for  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri

Wednesday Schedule:

- 👉 Weekly Testing
- 👉 Literature Circles
- 👉 Weekly Completion  
Activities



Social Studies & Science  
2:15 - 3:00 Days TBD

Day in Review

Quiet Seat

Pack-up and finalize day's  
events

3:15 - 3:20

Classroom times and schedules may vary. The above information should be treated as a guide, to help you better understand what we are doing in the classroom and not used as a permanent schedule of events.

**Modified Day Dismissal time is 1:00 PM every Wednesday**



August 2014

Dear Parents,

No one knows your child better than you do. As a parent, your perception of your student is a valuable resource. The more I can know and understand about your child, the more effective I can be.

I would appreciate it if you would participate in a parent homework assignment that will be of great value to me and, hopefully, to you and your child. By Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, please write me a letter introducing your child. I am particularly interested in your major goal for him /her during this first grade year and how you see him/her as a learner and a person.

You also might include a brief biography, mentioning any challenges, special abilities, fears, strengths, or weaknesses of which you think I should be aware. I would also like to know your child's interests, how he/she thinks and plays, and his/her attitude toward school.

Please be honest and complete. Your letter will be confidential. I think you'll be surprised how warming and emotional this assignment will be. I will return the letter in June and ask you to reflect on your child's progress this year. When you write, please respond freely and don't worry about format, structure, or spelling! As I tell your children, the draft is from the heart. The focus is on the writing experience not on the perfection of the structure.

I'm looking forward to reading your letter. Thank you for taking part in this important assignment.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Brewer*

August 2014

Dear Parents,

First allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mr. Brewer and I'll be your child's fourth grade teacher for the 2014-2015 school year. I'm very excited about being in this school district and especially proud to be a member of the best staff in the district. I believe that fourth grade is a pivotal year for children and I'm committed to giving your child the very best education possible. Fourth grade is an important year for students in developing responsibility, study habits, and organizational skills that they will carry with them. MY goal is to help students reach their potential by developing these skills. I hold high expectations for your child and will do all I can to help him or her meet those expectations.

I have many new and challenging activities planned to make your child's fourth grade experience a truly memorable one. Our classroom theme this year is, "Celebrate What's Right." Each month we will be talking about a way to focus on positive thinking and what's right with the world.

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, La Vorna will have its annual Back to School Night. I'm looking forward to meeting you and talking with you about your child's plan for success. This night will give me a chance to put a name with a face and vice versa. It also gives me the opportunity to explain to you the many programs your child will be involved in this year. This will also be the time for you to sign up to be a classroom volunteer. I'm hoping that some fathers will have the opportunity to join us in the class as well as mothers. Children need male role models to look up to as well as female ones. I'm hoping that all of you will be able to attend and join me for an informative evening.

Finally, I wanted to leave you with this poem. I found it in an old teaching magazine and it's been the backbone of my teaching philosophy for the past sixteen years.

When we plant a rose seed in the earth, we notice it is small,  
but we do not criticize it as rootless and stemless.

We treat it as a seed, giving it the water and nourishment  
required of a seed.

When it first shoots up out of the earth, we don't condemn it  
as immature and underdeveloped,  
nor do we criticize the buds for not being open when they  
appear.

We stand in wonder of its development.

The rose is a rose from the time it is a seed to the time it  
dies.

Within it, at all times, it contains its whole potential.  
It seems to be constantly in the process of change, yet at each  
stage,

at each moment,  
it is perfectly all right as it is.

Your child's teacher,

Mr. Brewer

# Fourth Grade Supply List

Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade! We are looking forward to a great year. Below you will find a list of helpful items that will make your child's fourth grade experience a better one. Office Depot, Staples, and Wal-Mart have many of these supplies at discount prices during the summer months.

- White lined notebook paper (wide ruled only) 2 reams
- 2 inch - Hardcover 3 ring binder
- 6 - 3 hole-punched pocket folders for binder
- 6 - notebook dividers
- 6 composition books different colored fronts if possible
- erasable pens, blue or black
- pencils - disposable mechanical (preferred) Ticonderoga are recommended
- highlighter pens - blue, green, and yellow
- heavy duty scissors
- pack or 4-6 Dry Erase Markers and a clean white sock (or white board eraser)
- (2) bottles of white glue
- 1 box of colored pencils & fine and regular tip colored markers
- 3 red pens used for correcting work
- "LARGE" pencil box
- 2 Black felt tipped pens or sharpies
- Colored pencils
- One plastic or wood 12 inch ruler
- (2) Reams of White Copy Paper
- 1 box of crayons (at least 24 colors)

We look forward to getting to know you and your child!

Have a  
**GREAT**  
Summer!



It's going  
to be a  
Great  
Year!

# Lets Get Acquainted La Vorgna Elementary School

*Please complete all fields! You may also complete the online version*

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Both parents living in the home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

( If separate, please list both address along with days and times with each )

Parents Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Mom \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail Dad \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Numbers

Mom \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Dad \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Occupations: Mom \_\_\_\_\_ Dad \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Special Medical Info \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members living in the home \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach you in the home \_\_\_\_\_

School Transportation - Morning \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon \_\_\_\_\_

My child may also go home with \_\_\_\_\_