



# FOOTHILL

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Mrs. Morita



FOOTHILL ADVENTIST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GRADES 3 & 4



Dear Parents,

I am excited to spend this school year with your child and you! I know that your child is the most prized possession you have. It is my desire to make every effort to set a good example and help to train him/her to be a productive and competent citizen of this world, while working alongside you to prepare him/her for Heaven.

Every child that walks into my classroom has been given a unique personality and a unique way to learn. It is my goal, as your child's teacher this year, to set high, but obtainable, goals while providing him/her with the tools needed to get there. Your child will be respected and valued as a priceless individual and will be taught to treat and respect others the same way. I promise to give 100% of my professional ability to the education of your child so that at the end of each day he or she can walk out the door feeling successful.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your child.

Most sincerely,

Diana Morita

## FOR YOU, THE PARENT

### Communication

If you need to meet with me in person or talk with me on the phone, I want to make sure that happens. These are several ways to get in touch with me, so please feel free to use these means whenever necessary.

#### *Before and After School*

If you would like to speak with me at school, I will be available before and after school but NOT Tuesday mornings or Wednesday afternoons, due to staff worship and meetings. If you would like to meet with me at a different time, please call and make an appointment. All efforts will be made to meet your schedule.



#### *Telephone*

If you have any questions or comments that do not require a personal visit, please feel free to call me at school. The number is (408)263-2568. Thank you.

#### *E-mail*

You may also contact me via e-mail, which I will check every day, but with a busy schedule, it might be later in the day. Feel free to leave a note or any questions that you have and I will try to respond to you in a timely manner.

EMAIL: [dmorita@foothilladventistschool.org](mailto:dmorita@foothilladventistschool.org)

In addition to you being able to contact me with questions or comments, there are several other ways that we will be keeping in contact throughout the year:

#### *Homework Packet*

A Homework Packet will be sent home on Fridays; this includes the homework assigned for the following week, the memory verse and spelling lists, and important dates to remember. Please keep this in the binder. Homework and parent's signature will be checked daily for points earned towards a reward.

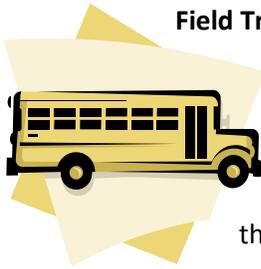
#### *Friday Paper Pass Back*

Each Friday your child will bring home completed assignments, flyers, and other items from school. Please take time to go through these items with your child so you can see what is being done in the classroom and school.

## INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

### Attendance

It is very important that your child attends class every day. Of course, things come up (sickness, appointments) that excuses your child from attending class, but every effort should be made to get your child here, on time, BEFORE 7:55 AM. Attendance will be taken every morning at 8:00 am and any child arriving after that time will receive a tardy. Any missed work, due to tardies, will need to be made up and are due the next day. After an absence, your child will have the amount of days to return their work as the number of day he or she was absent. (If he or she is absent for 2 days, the make-up work is due 2 days after returning back to school). Please look for the Daily Assignment Sheet which lists the missing assignments to help your child make up missing work so that it does not affect his or her grade.



### **Field Trips**

All field trips are considered school days and attendance will be taken. Several field trips are in the process of being scheduled for this year and you will get a flyer with this information. You will also receive permission slip forms about two weeks prior each field trip. I welcome any ideas or suggestions that are suitable for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grades. If you would like to help drive and/or chaperone, please see the office staff for necessary steps to be cleared to assist us.

### **Academic Standards**

It is my desire that each student will work at their full potential. The following standards will be closely followed to encourage students to give their best effort.

#### *Complete Assignments*

All students are expected to complete their assignments neatly, correctly, and on time. All work is due on the date assigned. The definition of a completed assignment is: ALL work is completed, and reasonably correct.

#### *Unfinished Work*

At the end of the day, all unfinished work will be brought home as additional homework and is due the next day for full credit. After that, assignments will be given half credit. Please help your child finish any work that needs to be completed while allowing them to do the actual work. Also, any assignments still incomplete at the end of the week will be assigned as homework over the weekend, and due the following Monday.

#### *Late work*

If students return their work late, they

- are not able to benefit from peers' comments
- are not able to contribute to class discussion
- cannot get immediate feedback and help
- can become discouraged

Please help us avoid this situation! All work received after the week it was due will only receive 75% of the points possible.

### **Classroom Discipline**

Students will be held to a high standard of behavior. Students will be taking responsibility for their behavior. This means that no student's behavior will stop me from teaching or prevent any student from learning. Students that cause a problem will need to solve the problem, receiving help from me if needed. Solving problems is the process of learning responsibility from an individual's choice of behavior. Students are unique individuals and so are their solutions. This means that not all behavior problems will be handled in the same manner, but will be handled as promptly and appropriately as possible.

#### *Extreme Circumstances*

Any situation that involves injury to another student or is obviously inappropriate will be dealt with immediately between the teacher, student, and principal.



### *In Return*

As the teacher to the student:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- If you cause a problem for anyone else, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can't solve the problem or choose not to, I will need to step in.
- What I will do will depend on the special student and the special situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, whisper to me, "I am not sure that is fair", and we will talk about it when we have the chance.

### **Parent Involvement**

Your child's class needs parents that are willing to help with the school year's special events and activities. Here are ways you can help:

#### *Birthdays*

Parents who wish to, may bring treats to school to celebrate their child's birthday. It is helpful to inform me a day in advance to avoid any scheduling conflicts.



#### *Fields Trips*

Field trips are possible only because parents are willing to help. Thank you in advance for those who are going to help!

#### *Holiday Celebrations / Class Parties*

Parents are needed to help with class parties and special activities as announced.

#### *Super-Supply Provider*

We are in need of parent volunteers who will be willing to help gather the materials needed for our science experiments. This would be a great to get all volunteer hours in if you cannot help during the work day! Please let me know if you would be interested in helping.

### **Snack/Lunch**

Each morning at recess, your child will have the chance to eat a small snack to help them keep their energy up. It is very important that this snack is a HEALTHY snack, such as: fruits, veggies, bread/crackers, yogurt, cheese, nuts, etc. Remember- Good learners need good food!

## **CURRICULUM**



### **Worship**

Prayer is an important of our day. This is demonstrated by our morning worship time. Each morning through prayer, Jesus is invited into our classroom. In addition to songs and stories, students will be taught to pray for others as well as themselves, and lead out in worship time.

### **Bible**

The students will learn Bible stories during lessons each week. Students are directed on how they can make applications to their own lives from the stories in the Bible. It is my goal that Jesus becomes a real friend to them and has a special part in their daily lives.

## Language Arts

Language Arts class will be a combination of writing and using English skills. Creativity is encouraged in writing and is done in many subjects throughout the day. Basic grammar skills and sentence structure will be taught both through lessons and within the writing progress.

## Spelling

Each week students will be given a spelling list that will be practiced throughout the week, both at school and at home. Spelling tests will be given on Fridays.

## Reading

### *General*

Students will be reading various works of literature selected by the teacher to meet the North American Division reading and literature standards. The most commonly used texts will be student-chosen books, whole class books, and Scholastic News and Story Works. Reading time will involve activities which allow students to read, write, discuss, and use drama and art.

### *DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)*

Every day, each student is allowed to go at his or her own speed with a book of their choice for 20 min. During this time we will only be **READING!**

### *Reading Counts (RC)*

As part as our reading program, students participate in Reading Counts. Students are assessed and are then given an individual reading level, from which to choose books and read from. Students then take a Reading Counts Quiz on the class computer to check for comprehension. Reading levels are a range in fourth grade (example: 3.5 through 5.5), not just a set level. Reading levels are assessed and changed throughout the year. Every student will read RC books that is level appropriate and yet challenging to their own reading abilities.

### **Scholastics Book Orders**

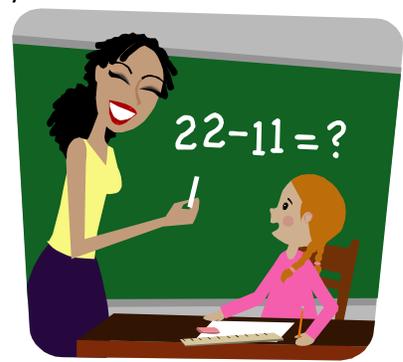
Once a month, book orders will be sent home for your family to look through. Students are usually given 7-10 days to get the orders in. **Please send all book order forms back to school completely filled out with cash or a check made out to Scholastics.** This is a great way to help your child find books that they can enjoy reading at home.

## Mathematics

Math is a subject that builds upon itself and therefore is important for students to master the concepts taught. However, math can be overwhelming to many students. In order to help students have proficiency in this area, math class will be divided into several different activities to meet the different needs and reinforce the skills to be learned.

### *Math Minute*

Daily drills of 10 problems will be handed out according to grade level and the students will see how many they can complete in one minute. These drills are a spiral review, meaning they cover basic tools repeatedly so the students have reinforcement in what they have already learned. Math Minutes will be graded on effort and participation. To receive all points, students just need to do their best.



### *Daily Lessons*

Each day a new lesson will be presented. Students will engage in an activity to help them understand the lesson, and practice work will be assigned. This is a great time for them to receive extra help if it is needed.

### *Chapter Tests*

Chapter tests are designed as learning and assessment tools, not just for the purpose of giving grade. Prior to a unit test, students are given a review in class and the opportunity to study at home. Parent involvement is always encouraged.

### **Science**

Science allows us many opportunities to use a hands-on approach to getting a deeper understanding of how the world around us works. Once in awhile we will have a Science Lab where students can discover first hand what we have been talking about during the rest of the week.

### **Social Studies**

This year we will be learning about the regions of the United States and how the diversity of our country makes us strong. Social studies time is a way for us to broaden our views of the world in which we live through a variety of activities such as reading a variety of sources, using technology, participating in group projects, field trips, and more.

### **Handwriting**

Third and fourth graders will be practicing their cursive skills concentrating on shape, size, space, and slant.

### **Homework**

Daily homework will be assigned Mondays through Thursdays, and may vary from week to week, but almost always will include Practice Book (PB) in Math, Reading 15 minutes, and studying the weekly memory verse and spelling words. **Please make homework a priority, provide the necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment. Any work not finished in class is homework for that night.**

### Memory Verses

Every week, a Bible Verse will be assigned for students to memorize. Students are expected to practice the Bible Verse daily. Students will be required to write the Bible Verse on Fridays.

### Monday

Every morning, please be sure that your **child is prepared with a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and neatly done homework in their binder ready to correct.** School begins at 7:55 am and students are expected to be in their seat ready to work at 8:00 am.

## GRADING POLICY

Report cards for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades will be issued four times, once at the end of each quarter. A progress report will be sent home mid-quarter and will need to be signed by the parent. Please look over these closely. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact me and we can discuss what we can do to help your child succeed.

### *Grading Scale*

A	100-93%	C	77-73%
A-	92-90%	C-	72-70%
B+	89-88%	D+	69-68%
B	87-83%	D	67-63%
B-	82-80%	D-	62-60%
C+	79-78%	F	59% and below

A= Superior

B= Above Average

C = Average

D = Below Average

F = Unsatisfactory

Please sign and return. Thank You.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Initial) I have read, understood, AND DISCUSSED the Third and Fourth Grade Information Packet with my child.

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Parent Name (Parent signature) (Date)

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Student Name (Student signature) (Date)