

September 21, 2023

Dear Parents,

Thank you for the privilege of working with your beautiful child. I hope this information will be helpful.

Here's some information about me: I have over ten years of teaching experience with the Diocese of Rochester, and five years at Nazareth Elementary School. I have taught in all grade levels, PreK – 8, but most of my experience has been in grades 2 – 5. This is my sixth year teaching fourth grade at Nazareth. I have NY State certifications in teaching grades 1 – 6, and Special Education. I have a Bachelor Degree from RIT and a Master Degree in Education from Roberts Wesleyan College.

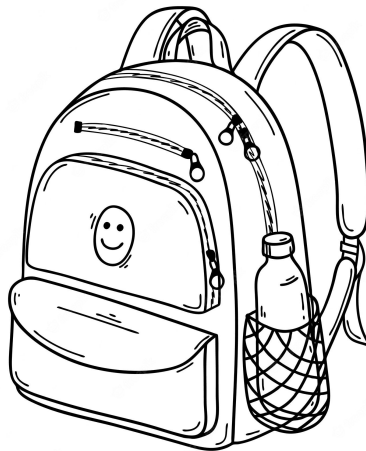
On a personal level: I am married to a wonderful husband (Dave), and have two super children (David, 23, and Laura, 12). I absolutely love teaching and am committed to helping your child succeed.

Please feel free to reach out to me via email at mtaylor@nazarethschools.org if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a wonderful year with all of our Fourth Grade families!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Carol Taylor



Classroom Scheduling

Our fourth grade schedule is somewhat flexible. There are planned lessons, goals, and objectives to be met every day, however, time frames are not rigid. Generally, language arts (reading, writing, spelling and grammar) and math are presented in the morning with religion, science and social studies in the p.m. Because of our flexibility, it is impossible to give an exact time frame of our day. What follows should give you a basic idea of the subjects we study.

Language Arts Block

Part of each morning is dedicated to language arts. This includes word study/spelling, grammar, reading and writing. We use the McGraw-Hill Wonders series for short literature pieces, Zaner-Bloser Handwriting, Zaner-Bloser Grammar, Usage and Mechanics, and Zaner-Bloser Spelling Connections. Each Monday, children will copy the week's Spelling list in their planner, and Spelling tests are given on Fridays.

Snack: Students eat their healthy snack at their desk, while working. When possible, students should be selecting healthy snacks. We've discussed making choices, what's bad, what's good, what's best. Encouraged snacks include fresh or dried fruits and vegetables, cheese and crackers, popcorn, yogurt, low sugar cereals and other whole grain products. Due to allergies, please do not pack items with peanuts or tree nuts for snack. Also, be sure to bring a filled water bottle each day.

Math

Our topics this year include multi-digit multiplication and division, and work with fractions and decimals. We use the Sadlier Math program.

Students will work on mastering their basic math facts. We will be doing many multi-digit calculations – automaticity of facts will help your child do well in this subject. There are many online resources to help with this. In the classroom, we will use XtraMath and old-fashioned flash cards.

Lunch: Fourth grade eats lunch from 12:10-12:40.

Social Studies: This year we will be studying New York State, Native Americans groups, Colonial and Revolutionary Periods, government, Civil War, westward expansion and industrialization. We will be looking at all these areas with respect to history, civics, economics and geography. There will be some projects later this year.

Science: We use the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Science Fusion Interactive textbooks to learn about the Engineering Process, Life Science, Energy and Ecosystems, Weather, Earth and Space, Properties of Matter and Energy. Students will be conducting experiments using the scientific method.

Other Information:

Backpacks: Please make sure your child's backpack is emptied every day. Notes and forms are often sent home which need to be read in a timely manner. Students are encouraged to pack their own backpack in the evening before bedtime and place them by the door, ready-to-go.

Birthdays: Due to many varied food allergies in our class and building, we do not allow children to bring in treats. The birthday is acknowledged in many ways in the classroom, including the birthday song. If you'd like your child to bring something in, consider special decorative pencils or erasers for your child to hand out. There are 10 students in our class.

Book Orders: Occasionally, Scholastic book orders will be sent home. These books make nice additions to at-home libraries and are great for the independent reading we do in class. However, book orders are optional, so please do not feel pressured to buy anything.

You can order books online and pay by credit card. They will be delivered to the classroom.

Communications:

- **Notes:** If you are sending a note to me via your child, please remind him/her before leaving home. Many notes are forgotten in the bottom of a backpack.
- **Email:** To keep you informed of what is going on in our room, I will use the email that we have on file at school. If you have not already provided your email address to the school, please do so to keep informed about classroom activity. Also, remember to update information with our office if your email address changes.
- **Phone:** Please call school at 585-458-3786 and a message will be given to me. Return calls will be made after dismissal.

Homework: Students can expect to have 40 minutes of homework approximately 4 nights per week. The first day of each week, students will be given a spelling list – the test will be on Fridays. There will be daily math practice and homework in other subjects to reinforce our classroom learning. Additional homework may result from work not being finished in class. We will have approximately three to four projects this year that may also require independent home time to complete. Homework is due at the beginning of class. In addition, students are expected to read at least 20 minutes each day, including weekends. There will be required book reports throughout the year. Books should be at your child's comfortable reading level. If an adult reads to the child, that also "counts" as reading minutes. Fourth graders often still enjoy being read to and cherish this special time.

Grading:

Class work	40%
Tests/projects	40%
Homework	10%
Participation	10%