

what to **KNOW**

St. Joseph – 4th Grade – Ms. Abernathy

Welcome to your child's 4th grade year! I am thrilled to begin the 2025–2026 school year with you. My name is Ms. Emily Abernathy, and I will be your child's teacher. This packet gives you insight into what our year will look like. Please know that the following information reflects how I expect things to go; however, if something isn't working as planned, I will make updates as needed and inform you of any changes to policies, procedures, or curriculum.



SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at 8:00 AM. Your child will be marked tardy if they arrive after that time. Students arriving between 7:30–7:50 AM will be supervised in the gym or on the walking track by a teacher. I will pick them up around 7:50 AM and walk them to our classroom.

Breakfast is available for purchase before class begins. Students may also bring a healthy, pre-packaged snack from home or purchase one from the cafeteria (homemade food items are not allowed.) Milk or juice is available for purchase during snack time, and students may bring water bottles into class. Please ensure water bottles have secure lids to prevent spills.

The school day ends around 3:00 PM. Please communicate any dismissal changes to both the office and me. Daily attendance is expected, but if your child is unable to attend, please notify us. Each day, students should bring their backpack, take-home folder, agenda, and any other required items.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to follow directions, respect their peers and teachers, and work hard. If students do not demonstrate appropriate behavior, consequences will be given.

First: A reminder will be given.

If behavior continues: 10 minutes of recess will be lost and a behavior sheet will be sent home for parent signature.

For repeated or severe behavior: The student's parents will be contacted, and the issue may be discussed with the principal.

Refer to the St. Joseph Handbook for additional expectations. I will teach and review expectations with students during the first week of school and throughout the year.

We will work to:

1. Be kind.
2. Work hard.
3. Share God's love.
4. Respect others.
5. Be responsible.
6. Have fun!

HOMEWORK

At the end of each day, we will fill out planners together to record homework. Students are expected to know what is due and bring home the materials they need. If questions arise, you can always message or email me for clarification.

Homework supports classroom learning and helps develop strong study habits. It should be neat, on time, and completed by the student. Students will have time to work on assignments in class; unfinished work must be completed at home and turned in the following day.

Missing homework may result in recess or other activities being withheld until it is completed.

No homework will be assigned on weekends or holidays, except for long-term projects.

Absences: Students have the same number of days to make up work as the number of days they were absent. For example, if they were absent for one day, then they will have one full day to make it up and turn it in. If they were absent for three days, then they will have three full days to make it up and turn it in.

ACADEMICS

Grades will be updated regularly in **PowerSchool**, which you can access to monitor your child's progress.

Spelling: Lists are given each Monday; tests are on Fridays. Please review words at home to support classroom practice.

Reading: Includes grammar, writing, vocabulary, and comprehension activities aligned to grade-level standards. We will use Accelerated Reader (AR) to encourage reading and track goals.

Math: Includes number sense, mathematical thinking, geometry, measurement, and data analysis aligned to grade-level standards. Students should get into the habit of showing their work on homework and tests, for that is something that I am always looking for.

Social Studies & Science: These subjects are integrated throughout the week, with occasional homework and regular tests.

Religion: Lessons will be paced appropriately with the standards. There will be practice and tests. The students participate in mass buddies and will be paired with a Kindergartener for the school year.

Specials: Health, PE, Technology, and Music are taught by specialized teachers who will provide separate grades.

GRADING SCALE

A	94%-100%
B	86%-93%
C	78%-85%
D	70-77%
F	69% or less

STAY CONNECTED

I will use **ClassDojo** for communication, including weekly newsletters, photos, reminders, and important updates. Please see the attached instructions to sign up and download the app.

My weekly newsletter will include:

- Important dates
- Weekly topics
- Spelling lists
- Test dates

Please download the app. Pictured below.



My email address is eabernathy@evdio.org. Please feel free to reach out to me at any point with questions. I will try to respond to emails as soon as I can, but please allow me at least 12 to 24 hours (business days) to respond.

STUDENT & PARENT INFORMATION FORM

Along with this paper, I have provided you with a student and parent information form. Please fill it out with answers to the best of your ability. When you have it filled out, please put it in an envelope (or fold it and tape it), then send it back with your child.