

4th Grade Language Arts

2022/2023 School Year

1 pm

Instructor: Adrienne Bowling, albowling84@gmail.com

I. Rationale:

In 4th grade language we will cover grammar, punctuation, spelling word challenges, writing, reading, literature, geography, and added with art appreciation. We will have a strong base of writing this year and have synonym challenge “tests” using fun methods. The student will be learning how to proofread their work and rewrite them correctly. They will learn to write articles, newspaper editorials, book reports, book and movie reviews, all different types of essays, and poetry appreciation. We will also be practicing our penmanship.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

This course is to help give the student confidence in learning spelling, writing, how to notice a good book, and how to look at a painting and understand the artist. This course is to be a gentle way of introducing language and have the student retain the info in fun and light topics while reading good books.

B. Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

Write stories, understand spelling, understand proofreading, understand poetry, rewriting in your own words, abbreviations, alphabetizing, know antonyms and synonyms. The student will also learn public speaking while presenting. We will do some diagramming but the student will be working to understand parts of speech in their writing or story telling. Strong reading is also encouraged.

A well stated outcome has two components:

I am wanting the students to be able to absorb the information in each unit and show comprehension through the activities.

2. Form – students must be able to read at a certain level or have parental help. They must be able to analyze the information and comprehend at some level to perform the assignments.

III. Format and Procedures:

Each class I will have an introduction to the content, as we begin I will need the students to be punctual, the needed supplies in hand, in a quiet non distracting area, and their attention focused on our class. Many times I have had students come to class without the proper materials and it slows the class down, disrupts it, or the student misses out on the activity because they were not prepared. Also for homework assignments; if the child does not do the assignments then it is very hard for me to grade their comprehension on the topic. Most parents at this age do not take grades but for the sake of the class this is how I am able to gauge whether the student is retaining the info or not.

Attendance: if the child will not be attending a certain class please let me know ahead of time and I will make sure to keep the parent updated on what happened in the class that day.

Attendance is important but schedules can be changed.

Participation: is very important. Unless there is a serious problem the camera needs to be on, and the student needs to be active in listening. There will be time for questions during the lesson but since we have such a short time the students need to make sure that they do not talk over each other. I also do end of class announcements so the student will need to stay until the end of class.

Since these are only 4th graders I will not be doing many tests or quizzes, but if I have any assignments that are like this it will not be difficult at all and not complicated.

IV. My Assumptions

At this age I really just want to make learning the harder things in Language a lot more fun and gentle. There are times when I will teach the more difficult grammar rules, but my goal is to get students from being scared or shy in making mistakes when it comes to writing, speaking, spelling, and reading. Most teachers love to teach grammar and I found out that is not how most students learn; they learn through reading and writing. They do need to learn the basics but I am not heavy in teaching grammar and rules. This can be saved for when they are older and are actually asking the questions—why?

V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites: Your student needs to be able to read on a 3rd grade level, be able to write at least a paragraph, and be able to sit for at least the 40 min and dialogue with the teacher.
2. Class attendance and participation policy: Please attend class and if you miss just send me a quick message letting me know.
3. Course readings:
 - (a) Required text(s): I will be putting my own Language Arts together so no text book is needed.

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students ‘own’ their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the “live” side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, please email the teacher to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

50% — Completed work

30 % — Participation

20 % — Projects/Quizzes/Tests

I have a rubric that I go by that helps with my grading. This allows the students to understand how their efforts are measured.

I am very lenient about late papers at this grade level, but after a few reminders the papers will start getting late marks. I generally take -5 points off for late papers.

VIII. Academic Integrity

This is very simple. We are all Christians and honesty and integrity is a very important virtue to teach our children. I want the papers to be what YOUR child has done and accomplished. Some parents like to hide their child’s struggles or weaknesses in a subject. I cannot help a student if I don’t know what their weaknesses are. I also want the students to give me their best work and effort and that looks different for everyone. Some are advanced in a certain area while they struggle in another area. And that is JUST FINE! I am looking at effort not perfection!

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

We will be doing at least 5 Units (6 if I can squeeze it in). The speed will just be determined by the children. If all goes well we will have all 6 completed.

X. Resource Readings

These will be the literature books that will be needed for this course:

The Secret Garden is fine, King of the Wind, and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, 21
Balloons