

Tuesday, August 8, 2023



Welcome to Fourth Grade (4A)!

Dear 4A Families,

My name is Lindsey McKaig and I am so thankful and excited to be your child's fourth grade teacher this year! As a new member of the St. John XXIII family, I have been made quickly privy to the kindness, generosity, and care that courses through this school family, and I cannot wait to extend my family even further with each of you.

Having received a Catholic education in grade school, undergrad, and through my Masters of Education program, I am aware of the grace and gift that a Catholic education can be. One of my favorite things about Catholic schools is that they recognize the parents and families as the primary educators of a child. That being said, I see myself as your partner throughout the year as we guide, teach, and love each of your beloved treasures of children.

To share a little bit about me, I am coming from St. John Vianney Elementary School in Sacramento, California, where I was the Fourth Grade teacher. I am a graduate of Loyola University Chicago BBA, and of the University of Notre Dame M.Ed. This summer I graduated with my Masters of Education at Notre Dame as a part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE Program). Outside of school, I love rollerblading, reading books, spending time with animals, watching basketball, and going out to restaurants--ice cream is my absolute favorite! I look forward to learning more about each of you as the year goes on.

Please know that communication between us stays wide open. With anything at all, please email me at lmckaig@popejohnxxiii.org

4A Guidelines

Student Learning Expectations: R.E.A.L. = Responsible Christian Leader, Effective Communicator, An Independent Thinker, Life Long Learner

Contacting Ms. McKaig: Teachers may be contacted over email or leave a message with the front office.

Messages will be answered in a timely manner. In the case of an urgent message, the office should be contacted.

Behavior: In the 4A classroom, we use Sparkle and Shines. These are small puffball creatures that my 2nd grade teacher used for her class, and that the whole class adored and worked hard to earn. Your child will learn about what these are and how they can earn them during the first week of school. If your child receives a Sparkle and Shine, it would be so helpful if you could please be outwardly excited and proud of them in order to instill pride and accomplishment!

When an issue arises in the classroom, I use Restorative Justice practices. What this will look like is a student will be removed from the situation, find a quiet place to “cool off”, and may be asked to complete a sheet that asks questions such as “What happened? Who was affected? What will you do so that this does not happen again?” After the student completes this sheet to the best of their ability and reviews their answers with me, we will get a clean slate and we will try better next time.

If an issue continuously comes up or if an issue is particularly serious, further action will be taken that may look like parent-teacher conferences, parent involvement, meetings with administrators, one-on-one meetings with the teacher, action plans, etc.

Homework: Nightly homework should reinforce what we have already learned in class.

Absences / Make-up Work: If your child is absent, please call the office or email the office by 8am. When your child returns to school, their missed work will be ready for them to complete.

From St. John’s Handbook: Parents must understand that when children are taken out of school for personal reasons such as a special holiday or family vacation, teachers are not required to anticipate schoolwork or to provide the same for the child. When convenient, teachers will try to cooperate; however, parents may not expect this kind of service and are advised to make arrangements with another student to collect the work. All work must be made up, and it is the student’s responsibility to check with his/her teacher for missing assignments. The student will be given two days for every day of an absence for making up the work.

Any missed assignments are the individual student's responsibility to tend to, and to work with the teacher to make a timeline for due dates.

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Ms. McKaig's 4th Grade Scores/Points Distribution:

these are subject to change at any point

English Language Arts:

Spelling, Grammar, Handwriting	10%
Tests & Quizzes	30%
Writing & Literature	20%
Final Drafts/Reports	40%

Social Studies:

Classwork	15%
Homework	10%
Projects	35%
Tests	40%

Grade Reports: Grade reports will be available on RenWeb. Students will be graded using the grading policy that appears in the Parent-Student Handbook.

Conferences: Parent conferences are scheduled as needed by the teacher or the parent. Conferences can be scheduled at any time by email:

lmckaig@popejohnxxxiii.org

If there is ever anything I can do for you or your child, please do not hesitate to reach out. It is my immense pleasure and gift to walk and grow with each of these this year. Thank you for your support, guidance, help, care, and your gift of sharing your child with this wonderful school!

Peace & Love,

Ms. Lindsey McKaig

By signing below, I am acknowledging that I have read and understand these guidelines.

My Fourth Grader's name: _____

Parent signature: _____

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Date: _____