

Ms. Bad's 4th Grade Class Curriculum, Policies, and Expectations

Stratford School - Milpitas Lower School - 2018-2019

Parisa Badizadegan (Ms. Bad) – Room 204

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Class website: www.stratfordbadclass.weebly.com

Welcome to Ms. Bad's 4th grade class! I am excited to get to know you and your student this year. In order to have an outstanding year full of learning and fun, I would like to inform you and your student about the classroom policies and procedures in Room 204.

1. English Language Arts (ELA) – Reading, Writing, Vocabulary, Spelling, and Grammar:
 - a. Vocabulary: *Wordly Wise 3000* Book 5; 15 weekly vocabulary words to study and quizzes every Friday. Every two weeks will be a week focused on reviewing the previous two lessons' words.
 - b. Novels (Reading): *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow; Robinson Crusoe; Treasure Island; Gulliver's Travels; Robin Hood*; supplemented with Newsela articles and poetry.
 - c. Grammar: *Shurley English Level 4*; 3-4 lessons a week at school.
 - d. Writing: *Writing by Design Level 4*; daily lessons at school.
 - e. Spelling: 10 words given weekly on Monday. Six of these words will be based on the pattern/rule, two will be based on the root of the week, and two will be teacher's choice based on what we are learning in science/history.
2. Math:
 - a. *Saxon Math Intermediate 5* program and practice workbook.
 - b. Daily math instruction will include Power Up, whole group instruction and note taking, group practice, and problem-solving challenges in which students will apply newly learned skills to different situations.
 - i. Homework is given on a daily basis Monday-Thursday. Written Practice ODDS will be completed at school and Written Practice EVENS will be homework.
3. Science, History, Geography, and STEAM:
 - a. History: *Grade 4 Core Knowledge* Topics: American Revolution; The US Constitution; Early Presidents and Social Reformers; Medieval Europe; Dynasties of China; African Kingdoms and Islamic Empires
 - b. Geography: *Maps, Globes, and Graphs* Level E; 1 lesson per week at school.
 - c. Science: *Science Fusion* Grade 4; 2 lessons per week.
 - d. STEAM: once every 1-2 weeks; focused on engineering design process, the scientific method, and related to learning in history, science, and geography.
4. Spanish:
 - a. Twice weekly 45-minute Spanish (Tuesday and Thursday). Our Spanish teacher will be in the classroom during this time.
5. Recitation:
 - a. Bi-weekly poems/shared work on Fridays. Check weekly homework sheet for more details.
6. Specials – Art, Music, and PE:
 - a. Twice-weekly sessions of art with Ms. Bad, music with Ms. Voon, and PE with Coach Castillo.
7. Homework and Grading: **See attached Homework Policy and Guidelines for detailed information.**

	Tests/Quizzes	Homework
% of Total Grade by Subject	80%	20%
Frequency	Spelling/Vocabulary: Weekly on Fridays Math: Approximately 3-4/month History/Science: Approximately every 10-12 days per subject Recitation: bi-weekly presentation on Fridays	Spelling/Vocabulary: 15 minutes/night Math (M-Th ONLY): 15-20 minutes/night History/Science: 15 minutes written response to review question (critical thinking, Cornell Notes summary, etc.) Recitation: 5-10 minutes/night
Grading Policy	NO partial points given on math, vocabulary, or spelling tests. Partial points possible on other tests.	✓ 100% (best effort/completed) + 50% (satisfactory effort/some completed) - 0% (incomplete/late)

8. Friday Folder and Homework Folder/Materials:

- a. Corrected tests and homework will be sent home in Friday Folders (tests given on Thursday or Friday will be included in the following week's folder). Please review the contents of the folder, sign the outside, and return the folder with your child the following Monday.
- b. Take home and bring back Stratford School Homework Folder to school DAILY! This should be the place your child puts their homework when it is completed. Please help remind students to KEEP the folder in their backpack when it is at home so homework is never forgotten at home!
- c. Take home any textbooks/workbooks needed for THAT NIGHT'S homework only.

9. Behavior Expectations:

a. School-wide Reminders/Policies:

- i. Chewing gum is NOT permitted in the school building.
- ii. Please let Ms. Bad know if you would like to celebrate your child's birthday at school with a small, healthy snack during recess. Any other events of importance can also be planned to celebrate. No nuts/peanuts and must be store bought!
- iii. We are a nut-free and peanut-free campus. Please do not send snacks to school containing nuts/peanuts.
- iv. All paper, pencil, and school-related supplies needed for school work are provided. However, please ensure your child brings the follow daily to school:
 1. Backpack and jacket (weather permitting)
 2. Lunchbox (or order hot lunch through Choice Lunch)
 3. Water bottle
 4. Healthy snack(s) if desired
- v. Students are expected to adhere to Stratford dress expectations daily:
 1. Top and bottoms must be Stratford School uniforms
 2. Tights/socks must be navy/black/white
 3. Shoes must be closed-toe, any color
 4. Spirit Days (Fridays): Stratford shirt with jeans/khakis

b. Ms. Bad's Great Expectations:

i. Responsibility, Respect, Work, Attitude, Team

- a) These five attributes are expected of scholars EVERY DAY in Room 204. We will talk more about what these expectations mean in class and will practice them daily. These attributes are our classroom norms (rules) and will be discussed in detail throughout the year.

c. Class Jobs, Pod Points, and BadBucks:

- ii. Our classroom uses a system of jobs and punch card rewards to teach students responsibility and to encourage behaviors of a safe learning environment.
- iii. More information about this system will be provided during the first week of school (**see attached *Classroom Norms, Rewards, and Consequences* for more information**).

10. Communication:

a. Contact Ms. Bad - pbadizadegan@stratfordschools.com

- i. The best way to reach me is via email. I am available to also schedule face-to-face meetings or phone calls any day EXCEPT Wednesdays afterschool from 3:45-4:45.

b. Class Website - www.stratfordbadclass.weebly.com

- i. Our website is full of educational resources, our calendar of upcoming events, due dates, and homework assignments, and much more! Also, be sure to check out weekly updates through our Class Blog including photos and descriptions of activities in class! *DO NOT check Portal for updates!

c. Monthly Newsletter - *The Bad Bulletin*

- i. The Bad Bulletin is a monthly newsletter giving a quick snapshot of upcoming events and learning topics. The newsletters will be sent via email every start of the month and accessible through class website under *Parents*.

7. Visitors and Volunteers:

- a. All visitors must sign-in at the front office upon entering the building.

- b. If you can help, please make arrangements with Ms. Bad via email or at Back to School Night so we can coordinate to best utilize your valuable time.
- c. Please check the class website under the *Parents* tab for more information regarding volunteer opportunities and to view our class Giving Tree for much-needed donation items.

8. Weekly Schedule:

- a. Below is a TENTATIVE weekly schedule. Some weeks may have varying times/subjects due to assemblies, teacher professional development days, and/or holidays. Please check the *Calendar* tab on the class website for the most up-to-date information about our schedule.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45-8:00	Arrival and Pledge				
8:00-8:20	SEQ/Boardwork	SEQ/Boardwork	SEQ/Boardwork	SEQ/Boardwork	SEQ/Boardwork
8:20-9:20	Math (8:20-9:20)	Math (8:20-9:30)	Math (8:20-9:20)	Math (8:20-9:30)	Vocab Test (8:20-8:45)
					Computers (8:45-9:30)
9:20-10:15	Writing Reading	Spanish (9:30-10:15)	Writing Reading	Spanish (9:30-10:15)	Math Investigation (9:30-10:15)
10:15-10:30	Spelling	Grammar	Grammar	Grammar	Grammar
10:30-10:50	RECESS				
10:50-11:15	Vocabulary (10:50-11:15)	Vocab/Spelling (10:50-11:05)	Vocabulary (10:50-11:15)	Vocab/Spelling (10:50-11:05)	Spelling Test (10:50-11:05)
11:15-12:00	PE (11:15-12:00)	Writing Reading (11:05-12:00)	Computers (11:15-12:00)	Writing Reading (11:05-12:00)	Writing Reading (11:05-12:00)
12:00-12:45	LUNCH				
12:50-3:00	History/Geography (12:50-1:50)	Science (12:50-1:35)	Character Counts (12:50-1:20)	Music (12:50-1:35)	History/Geography (12:50-1:30)
		Music (1:35-2:20)			
	Art (1:50-2:55)	Science (2:20-2:55)	PE (1:20-2:05)	History/Geography (1:35-2:55)	
			Science (2:05-2:55)		
					PBL/STEAM/Art (1:30-2:20)
					Recitation (2:20-2:55)
3:00-3:15	Pack Up and Departure				

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Please detach and return this page completed and signed to Ms. Bad by:

Thursday Aug. 30th, 2018.

I have read and understand the policies as explained for the 2018-2019 school year in Ms. Bad's 4th grade class. I agree to uphold and support them throughout the year.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Homework and Policy Guidelines

Ms. Bad – Room 204

At Stratford School, homework is an important part of the overall educational success of students. Homework reinforces the learning your child does in school. Additionally, assignments and projects provide an opportunity for students to become responsible for their work habits and learn to manage time effectively.

In fourth grade, students should have **approximately 60 minutes of total homework Monday-Thursday** (no homework is given on Fridays).

- 15 minutes or more should be spent reading a book of choice each night.
- All written assignments (EXCEPT math) are to be completed in cursive unless otherwise specified by Ms. Bad.
- All math homework should be completed on graph paper (see headings below).
- All other homework should be completed on lined white paper, unless otherwise specified by Ms. Bad for projects/art.

Helpful Hints for Homework Success:

- Set aside a regular time for homework (preferably after a snack and before any extracurricular activities)
- Try breaking up homework into smaller segments, allowing for short breaks (5-10 minutes) in between segments.
- Set aside a regular study spot with resources to complete homework. Some items that would be helpful to have at home for your student to use for homework include:
 - Dictionary (or online access to look up words)
 - Pencils with erasers
 - Ruler
 - Scissors
 - Colored Pencils
 - Markers
 - Crayons
 - Glue
 - Paper
- Encourage your child to do his/her best but remember to move on to other parts of the homework if he/she becomes overly stressed. For example, if a math problem is too difficult and your child has spent an appropriate amount of time trying to solve it for its complexity, have your child go on and complete the rest of the work. Any extremely difficult problems/questions can be brought to school to be discussed with Ms. Bad and the class.
- Have your child set time limits/goals on how much time he/she will spend working on a particular assignment. Have a clock or timer nearby to help reinforce time management skills.

Grading Guidelines:

Assignments must be turned in **on time** to receive full credit. No credit will be given if the assignment is more than one day late, with the exception of major writing assignments, projects, or reports or extraordinary circumstances leading to your child's absence from school (see below). If I feel that your child is not doing his/her best work, I will ask that the work be redone. Remember to always check homework assignments for correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar before submitting them.

Homework will be checked according to a check system:

- A **PLUS (+)** will be given for work that is complete (showing best effort), neat, and mostly free of errors.
- A **CHECK (✓)** will be given for work that is complete, but contains many errors and/or does not show a student's best effort.
- A **MINUS (-)** will be given for work that is incomplete, late, or demonstrates minimal effort.

***Homework is work 20% of the total subject grades.** Several missed or low assignments can severely affect grades. Please contact Ms. Bad with questions or help if you feel that your child needs more support in completing homework BEFORE the end of the term.

Late Work/Absent Work Policy:

9. Late work is accepted for a + (50%) score up to ONE DAY after a due date. Any homework not turned in after that point will count as a ZERO score.
10. However, if a student is absent due to illness or extraordinary circumstances, he/she will receive a detailed explanation of work to be completed. Please ask your child to speak to Ms. Bad to develop an individual plan/schedule for turning in late work.

Homework Assignment Headings:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Student #</i>
<i>Date</i>	
<u><i>Subject: Name of Assignment</i></u>	

Example:

<i>Ashley Jan</i>	<i>#15</i>
<i>9/1/18</i>	
<u><i>Vocabulary: Content Sentences</i></u>	

Classroom Norms, Rewards, and Consequences

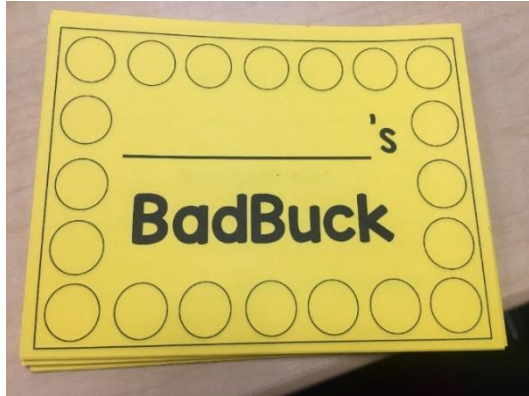
Ms. Bad – Room 204

Classroom Norms (Rules):

Scholars in Room 204 are expected to exemplify the following norms: responsibility for actions/behavior and learning; respect towards self, others, and property; hard work and effort in every task; positive and focused attitude; and team work to accomplish goals. These norms are referred to as Ms. Bad's Great Expectations. We will spend the first weeks of school discussing what each norm means in our classroom. Students will be

BadBucks and Rewards:

- Our class punch card (kept at school at ALL TIMES):



- At the end of bi-weekly job rotation, the Assistant (student job) will give punches according to the following rules:
 - Job completed satisfactorily = 1 stamp/week**
 - 5 Pod Points = 1 punch**
- Once students "complete" a BadBuck, they earn a prize from the PRIZE BOX!
 - Prize box contains purchased cool school-related supplies, including notebooks, pencils, erasers, etc.
- All completed BadBucks will be put on display on the cabinet.
- Once EVERYONE completes ONE BadBuck, the class will earn a party of their choice!
 - Choices: tech party, pajama party, read-a-thon, extra recess, etc.

Class Jobs:

- Every student will have a class job to foster responsibility and a sense of community as we work together to help our classroom function smoothly.
- Jobs rotate bi-weekly** – students will get a chance to do ALL jobs!
- When jobs rotate, a **new Job Card in pocket** (taped to cabinet at back of room) will explain new responsibilities.
 - Students must read the card CAREFULLY to understand responsibilities, then ask me any questions.**

Pod Points:

- Rows of 3-4 **work together to earn Pod Points** by following Ms. Bad's Great Expectations, exhibiting the Character Trait of the Month, being on-task, working together to complete a task, etc.
- Students create an interesting name for Pod to show ownership of group.
- Pods (and seats) will rotate once monthly.
- Pod Points CAN be taken away if a Pod member decides to break classroom rules (after 1 verbal warning to correct behavior).
- At the end of each week, the Assistant will give one stamp per five Pod Points on BadBuck.

Consequences:

If students choose to disregard school/classroom norms, the following consequences will occur:

- **First offense:** Verbal or visual warning.
- **Second offense:** Receive a "warning card" or second verbal warning.
- **Third offense:** Spend time thinking about decision and complete "Stop and Think" sheet. At the end of think time, conference with Ms. Bad to discuss how student can correct behavior and avoid making the same decision in the future.
- **Fourth offense:** Send home "Stop and Think" sheet to be signed by a parent and a call home from Ms. Bad to discuss behavior with parents. Depending on behavior, it may be necessary for Ms. Bad to schedule a conference with parents to discuss severity of problem and to prevent future problems.
- **Fifth offense:** If problems continue OR there is a more serious offense (such as fighting, cheating, deliberate destruction of school's or other's property, or jeopardizing another person's safety), student will be sent directly to the Director's office