



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Back-to-School Night Packet - 4th Grade

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Charism, Vision and Mission

"Unless our Catholic philosophy and way of life are taught religiously, our civilization will be founded on sand." -- Father Junipero Serra

CHARISM

Inspiring a deep faith, innovative mind, and caring heart through Christ... Siempre Adelante

VISION

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School is valued as a leading Diocesan Catholic Parish Elementary School located in South Orange County, California. Motivated by the teachings of Blessed Junipero Serra, and the persevering spirit of our founding families, we nurture our students to live and model their Catholic faith as servant leaders of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Serra students are encouraged to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve the challenges of this ever-changing world.

MISSION

Rooted in the Catholic faith, evangelical vision, and spirit, the community of St. Junipero Serra Catholic School welcomes families from the parishes of Holy Trinity, San Francisco Solano, Santiago de Compostela, and St. Kilian, and surrounding communities. Inspired by the gospel values and in a Christ-centered environment, we provide a nourishing community for students to develop their seeds of faith and gifts to live as true disciples and servants of Christ. Our academic programs promote student success through a challenging and diverse curriculum meeting the varied learning needs and unique potential of the whole child.

SCHOOL-WIDE STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- A Catholic, Christ-Centered Life That Serves God and Others
- An Engaged and Active Life-Long Learner
- A Respect and Reverence for Human Dignity and Diversity
- A Passion to Share and Lead with One's God-Given Gifts

Dear Fourth Grade Parents,

Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Allison, Ms. Haas, Mr. Letourneau and I welcome you to St. Junipero Serra and we thank you for joining us at Back-to-School Night. The purpose of this evening is to provide a curricular overview for your child's academic year including the syllabus, the daily schedule, highlights of the school year and a chance to meet your child's teacher. Attendance and participation at Back-to School Night signifies your partnership with the school in meeting the unique learning needs of your child. Thank you for your commitment and your time!

We are so blessed to have four incredibly talented, experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will provide a wonderful, positive and creative learning environment for your child. They will be working to help your child develop skills in all religious, academic, emotional, social, and physical areas. Above all they will be fostering a love for God and love for learning.

We look forward to a great year. I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School.

Mrs. Carol Reiss
Principal, Pre-School - Grade 4

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Lead Principal/Administrator - ttolzda@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal Pre-School-Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal Grades 5-8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal Pre-School-Grade 8 - eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Elaina Stokes Assistant Principal Grades 5-8 - estokes@serraschool.org
Mrs. Shannon Smith, Assistant to the Principal, Pre-School-Grade 4 - ssmith@serraschool.org
Mrs. Alexandra Cook, Assistant to the Principal, Grades 5-8 - acook@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

Miss Joyce, 4A - mjoyce@serraschool.org
Mr. Letourneau, 4B – mletourneau@serraschool.org
Mr. Allison, 4C – ballison@serraschool.org
Miss Haas, 4D - khaas@serraschool.org

Small Group and Advanced Plus Teachers:

Mrs. Crowe , Small Group ELA/Literacy and Math – tcrowe@serraschool.org
Mrs. Leavey, Advanced Plus ELA/Literacy and Math – sleavey@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

Mrs. Teri Schulist, Music – tschulist@serraschool.org
Mrs. Sheela Rao, Art – srao@serraschool.org
Mrs. Kim Biasca Creativity Lab - kbiasca@serraschool.org
Mr. John Rodriguez, Physical Education – jrodriguez@serraschool.org

E-mail is the most effective way to reach us. For your convenience, teacher email addresses have been provided to you. Please allow a 24 hour response time, except weekends and holidays. If your question or concern requires a phone call, please call (949) 888-1990 and speak to the receptionist. She will route your call based on the level of importance. Please know that the teachers' primary responsibilities are the safety, supervision, and education of your child during the school day. Checking emails and phone messages may not happen during the school day because teachers' primary responsibility is to supervise students during the school day.

Copies of the following are attached to this Back-to-School Night packet.

- Parent Acknowledgement Form
- Family Life Parent Acknowledgement Form

Fourth Grade Curriculum

Grading Policy Final grades will be determined by the following:

70% Authentic Assessment

20% Approaches to Learning

10% Math Facts and Accelerated Reader Goal

Students in the fourth grade will be assessed on the Diocesan Achievement Scale and will receive a percentage grade on their Student Learning Assessment. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for the scale.

Formative assessment The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching, and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- a chapter or unit test
- a final project
- a research paper/essay

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

Religion Text: *We Believe* Publisher: Sadlier Oxford

Requirements/Expectations:

- Students will study one chapter a week and be assessed with a chapter quiz every Friday.
- For every five chapters covered there will be a comprehensive unit test.
- Students will complete different projects or larger religious-based writing assignments, as well as various other in-class activities throughout each chapter.

Larger Assignments: Saint Project, The Beatitudes, Ten Commandments Project
Family Life Text: Benziger Family Life
Publisher: Benziger

Requirements/Expectations Family Life is an important part of our Religion class in 4th Grade. We weave the lessons from the Family Life series into our Religion Curriculum. Reflection/discussion questions and unit reviews will be used as grades for this series. The following topics will be discussed in homeroom with the students:

- God's Gift of Family
- God's Gift of Self
- God's Gift of Life
- God's Gift of Love
- God's Gift of Community

Throughout the school year, the fourth grade students will be studying the family life component of our religion curriculum. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the Church and school community serve as partners with the family in that regard. It is the responsibility of the school to educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the Church. We are truly blessed to have your child as a member of the St. Junipero Serra community.

Benziger Family Life is the series that has been adopted school-wide. This program reflects and reinforces a major priority in the Church today: the preservation of the fundamental importance and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of Christian family life.

Tonight you will receive a copy of the ***Benziger Family Life Parent Connection***. Please review this resource and keep it as a reference for use during the school year. The content page will outline each of the topics that we will cover during our study of this program as stated above.

Please sign and return the attached Family Life Acknowledgement Form indicating whether your child may participate in this program in the spring. **We ask that you return this form by Friday, September 17, 2021.**

Social Studies Texts: *California Studies* Publisher: Houghton Mifflin and *Native Americans and The Missions* Publisher: Saint Mary's Press Interactive

Supplemental Text: Simple Solutions Social Studies Publisher: Bright Ideas Press
Requirements/Expectations:

- Students will learn about California geography and history.
- Early California history and Spanish exploration will be covered with the On-line Saint Mary's Press interactive program.
- Approximately one chapter a month will be covered. A chapter within the book consists of four lessons. At the end of each chapter the students' knowledge will be assessed with a chapter test.
- Students will practice note taking skills by completing an outline for each chapter. These outlines will be both classwork and homework. Various projects throughout the year will also be a part of the Social Studies curriculum.

Large Projects: California Regions Activity, Mission Project, Be An Entrepreneur, and California Travel Project

Science: Online Text: NGSS Standards based PowerPoint lectures

We will implement the NGSS standards through the use of note taking and hands on experiments. We also utilize a variety of digital resources such as BrainPop that incorporates video, audio, text, and interactive experiences to provide science content while meeting the needs of students with different learning styles. The fourth grade curriculum will focus our attention on the following units:

- Rocks/Shaping the Earth
- Inside the Earth
- Energy
- Seismic/Sound Waves
- Electricity
- The Plant/Animal Relationships

Homework will be given on occasion. Quizzes will be given throughout the unit and tests will be administered at the end of each unit.

English Language Arts/Literacy

Text: *Reading Wonders* Publisher: McGraw-Hill Reading/Writing Workshop Literature Anthology

Supplemental Text: Simple Solutions Common Core English Grammar & Mechanics
Publisher: Bright Ideas Press

The *Wonders* Reading Series incorporates the Common Core State Standards, and is designed specifically for the CCSS Reading/Language Arts. It is available in a 100% digital format which is accessible through Canvas, and contains a parallel intervention component for those students enrolled in the small group reading classes. Our Reading/Language Arts class is a wonderful integration of reading, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Each week the teachers will focus on a weekly concept, essential questions, close reading of complex texts, comprehension strategies and skills, vocabulary strategies, spelling skills, phonics/fluency, and grammar review and practice.

Accelerated Reader

This program will provide students, through Canvas, with up-to-date lists of books and the ATOS level of each book. The ATOS measures are based on four characteristics of the book (average sentence length, average word length, vocabulary grade level and the number of words in the book). This is similar to a Lexile number which is based on two characteristics of a book (sentence length and word frequency).

Students are given a percentage grade when taking an AR test. The tests can only be taken one time. This is to encourage students to read carefully. Students will earn points based on the percentage scored on each quiz. This percentage grade and total points earned will both be part of the overall reading grade. Each child will be assigned an individualized goal for each trimester determined by his/her score on the STAR Reading test.

Novels

Students will engage in reading several novels during the year. These will be used to introduce various themes such as main idea, setting, storyline development, character development, and figurative language. The novels covered are:

- From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankwiler - Leveled & Small Group
- DASH - Advanced & Advanced Plus
- By The Great Horn Spoon - All Classes

Additional resources can be found on the St. Serra website under Academics> Library > Accelerated Reader.

Requirements/Expectations:

- Students will read the short stories from a variety of genres (50% fiction and 50% non-fiction) and learn various literary skills.
- Students will take selection quizzes at the end of each story to demonstrate their comprehension of the story.
- Students will have weekly or bi-weekly spelling and vocabulary quizzes which are generated from the weekly skill.
 - Weekly tests and quizzes are not always on Fridays. This will vary by class.
 - Each unit in reading consists of five stories. At the end of these five stories the students will be assessed with a unit test covering the literary skills from all the stories.
- Students will have nightly homework Monday-Thursday in Language Arts. This may include reading, spelling, vocabulary, writing, and/or grammar. This homework does not include nightly independent reading, but is in addition to that requirement.
 - Students will also be assigned other activities or projects throughout the year.

Math Text: *enVision Math 2.0 Common Core* Publisher: Pearson Volume

Supplemental Text: Simple Solutions Common Core Mathematics Publisher: Bright Ideas Press

The Pearson *enVision 2.0* program supports the Common Core State Standards to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in mathematics. The 100% digital format, accessed through Canvas, contains hands-on differentiation centers and manipulatives to support all our learners, including those enrolled in the advanced classes as well as those in the small group math classes.

Requirements/Expectations:

- Students will learn lessons guided by our math series and centered in the Common Core Curriculum Standards.
 - Students will take a Topic Test at the end of each math topic and checkpoint quizzes at various times during the Topic.
- Students will complete daily Simple Solutions lessons and take a Simple Solutions Quiz every third week on the previous four lessons.
- Freckle is adaptive instructional software designed to boost math skills. Fourth grade students will access the program 30 minutes each week.
- Students will have nightly homework from the textbook series, math facts practice, and from Simple Solutions Monday through Thursday.

We have online licenses for all of our Pearson enVision Math materials. They are available at www.pearsonrealize.com.

Freckle

An adaptive on-line program in which students work on mastery of standards in all subject areas.

Seesaw

An on-line student portfolio used by students to show accomplishments towards curriculum standards and Student Learning Expectations.

All Specialty Elective classes will use the 4-1 grading rubrics

- 4 Consistently Meets Standards/Expectations
- 3 Frequently Meets Standards/Expectations
- 2 Occasionally Meets Standards/Expectations
- 1 Rarely Meets Standards/Expectations

Art: Ms. Sheela Rao

All 4th grade students are required to have an art sketchbook (8.5 x 11 spiral bound), which is available for purchase at various stores and on-line vendors. The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Art Program offers students the opportunity to understand, interpret, and appreciate the visual arts by exploring their creative potential through hands-on art projects. Emphasis is on creative exploration and manipulation of various art mediums. Students will expand their knowledge by developing and building upon their art vocabulary while learning and applying the art elements successfully; to create their own masterpieces. Students will discover that the creative process is a lifelong way to express their personal world, ideas, and emotions. Technology is integrated into the art curriculum to view and critique famous masterpieces

Music: Mrs. Teri Schulist,

All 4th grade students are required to have a recorder, which can be purchased in the online student store. Students will participate in Recorder Karate throughout the school year. As students progress, they will earn “karate belts” for their recorder skills. Students may be asked to bring their laptops to Music class to go to a website and listen to music, complete worksheets, and work on projects. In addition to performing in the Christmas Concert, students will participate in games, laptop activities, hands on instrument activities, recorder quizzes and be introduced to the ukulele. Students will be assessed by how well they understand and apply musical concepts and by how well they participate in class.

Creativity Lab: Mrs. Kim Biasca In the Creativity Lab students will discover a “playground for learning.” The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, reading, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STREAM) while building critical 21st century skills. Young learners will engage in hands-on projects and experiences ranging from computer graphics & digital media arts to circuitry & robotics. Students will be learning and exploring with Zometools, Botley the Coding Robot, Knex, Ozobots, Snap Circuits, Osmo, Makey Makey and so much more.

4th Grade Physical Education**Mr. John Rodriguez, All Classes***Program Goals:*

The St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Physical Education Program focuses on two main areas of student development and learning.

1. As part of the School Wide Learning Expectations at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School the students participate in a physical education program that creates “a reverence for one’s own physical being” and “a positive and realistic self-image.”
2. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those skills into their everyday life.

Description:

Students will have PE class twice a week for a total of eight classes per month. Fitness Gram testing will occur three times during the year;

1. Pre-Testing at the beginning of the year
2. Testing to check on students’ progress throughout the year
3. Post-Testing throughout the year to determine if the students meet The Healthy Fitness Zone.

Sports will be introduced and played at all levels of skill including, football, volleyball, basketball, soccer, hockey and various other games Health and Nutrition will be discussed and included.

Uniform Policy:

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn to waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls), all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal.
3. During the winter months students may wear the designated school sweats or solid-colored white, navy, or black leggings under their PE shorts.
4. Closed toe athletic shoes that are fit for running, secured on the foot, are required for all PE classes.
5. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to wear their Formal Uniform with athletic shoes until after the designated event for the day.
6. Socks may be plain white, navy or black and can only have a small, single color logo on them. For further details see the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook.

Grading Policy:

The majority of the grade in PE is not determined by the God given talents that each individual student has, rather upon many factors within the student's control. The five behavioral factors that, if followed, can produce a grade of high merit are:

1. *Student positive attitude and respect for others.*
2. *Promptness and being on time to class.*
3. *Following uniform guidelines.*
4. *Participation.*
5. *Effort shown in the assigned task.*

The daily grade given to each student will be based upon these factors and deductions will be made for those students who do not meet these requirements. The overall grade is determined upon 18-20 grades each trimester that are weighted equally that will encompass and be based on the following marks:

*****Rubrics Standards Based Grading:**

- 4 = Consistently meets standards/expectations
- 3 = Frequently meets standards/expectations
- 2 = Occasionally meets standards/expectations
- 1 = Rarely meets standards/expectations

Injuries and Sickness:

- As a part of any physical program in school or outside of school injuries, or illnesses that do occur, needs to be reported to the teacher.
- During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if they are still able to participate.
- Any condition that requires the student to miss two consecutive days or more of PE will require a medical note from the doctor. The note should specify the injury and specific limitations as well as the specific date your child may resume regular activity in PE class..
- All notes for injuries or other information must be delivered, or sent via e-mail to Mr. Rodriguez at jrodriguez@serraschool.org the PE teacher by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the PE class.
- If there is a discipline problem, the student will be given a verbal warning; if the problem persists it will be communicated by the PE teacher via e-mail, phone call to the parent.

Class Rules: Students will follow the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Code of Conduct, of the Parent/Student Handbook at all times while in physical education class.

- *Students will be on time and ready on their number when the teacher is ready to take roll*
- *Students will be quiet and respectful during prayer in class.*
- *Students will not talk while the teacher is talking, or any other teacher or adult visitor*
 - *Students will show proper sportsmanship and respect for all members of the class*

Fourth Grade Information

Homework Policy:

- Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework is given to reinforce the learning that has taken place each day. Students will have nightly homework in the core subjects of Language Arts and Math. Occasionally, there will be homework in other subjects as well. This may include long term assignments and studying for tests. In addition, each child will also be expected to read every night per the assigned classroom goals.
- Homework assignments must be complete, legible, and neat. An assignment which does not meet these criteria will be returned to the student to redo and will be considered late. Students will receive one warning for each incomplete or late homework assignment. Such assignments are expected to be completed and turned in on time in order for a student to attend Fun Thursday
- Homework is due the next day in the class it was assigned, unless an alternate date is given. It is to be neat and 100% completed. Missing and/or incomplete homework may result in a warning. If a student leaves his or her homework at home, and a parent chooses to drop it

off, the student may still receive a warning. Parents and teachers working together will help students learn responsibility.

- Absences: Students receive the same number of days to make up work as they were absent. For example, if a student is absent two days, the student then receives two days to make up the work. After the given time has passed, if the homework has not been completed and turned in the student may receive a warning and or a call to the parent.

Testing Policy:

- Test dates will be posted ahead of time on Canvas.
- Test make-ups follow the same policy as in the Homework Policy. Students will receive as many make-up days for studying as they were absent. If a student is only absent on the day of the original test date, the student will be expected to take the missed test the exact day he/she returns to school. Since no review days were missed, no extra review days will be given.

Project Policy:

- Projects will always include clear guidelines, a rubric, and advance notice. Projects will be assigned across the curriculum.
 - Mission Project: Mission selection, guidelines, rubric and informational packet will be given out by Thanksgiving break. The project will be due at the end of January (before Open House). Official due dates will be included with the project information.

Student Discipline Card and Responsible Behavior:

- Students will be given verbal warnings and work with the teacher to help them modify inappropriate behavior. If the behavior continues, parents will be contacted via telephone call and brought into the situation to help guide the student toward correcting their behavior. The Student Discipline Card will be used to document inappropriate behavior.
- If a student's behavior is not corrected after three formal write ups, tracked on the Student Discipline Card, or in the case of a major infraction, students will be referred to administration and they will have a meeting with the student, parent, and administration to focus on the students behavior modification.
- Each student will receive a Responsible Behavior grade in CANVAS that will become part of the student report cards. All teachers in the grade level will have input into this grade.

Grade Level Incentive Program:

- Fun Thursday: Students earn going to Fun Thursday based on positive behavior, good work habits, and if all classwork and homework are 100% completed. If a student loses the privilege of Fun Thursday early in any given month, the student will be offered the opportunity to earn Fun Thursday back by completing and turning in any late and/or incomplete work, and/or by working to make up for poor choices. Fun Thursday will be held on the last Thursday of each month.

- **Class Days/Activities:** Teachers have a system in each homeroom for the class as a whole to earn special non-food treats or parties. These are earned at the discretion of each teacher.
- **Non-Uniform Dress:** Students may wear non-uniform dress on their birthday, unless this falls on a formal dress day. If this happens, another day will be arranged for the student to wear free dress to celebrate their birthday.

Field Trips We plan to have The Walk Through California in February on campus, travel to Irvine Park for a California History day, and have a fourth grade religious retreat this school year.

Conferences We are always available to conference with parents concerning their child. Parents are welcome to leave a voicemail message, email, or send a note with their child to schedule an appointment. We will respond to the message or note as soon as possible. Formal conferences will be held in October. Please do not “stop by” the classroom in the morning or afternoon; contact the teacher directly for an appointment.

Class Rules

- Students will keep their hands, feet, and all objects to themselves.
- Students will raise their hand before speaking, standing or leaving their desks.
- Students will keep the classroom neat and clean.
- Students will be kind to their classmates.
- Students will listen attentively and follow directions.
- Masks will be worn at all times indoors but are not required outdoors.

Classroom Management To encourage students to follow classroom rules, we reinforce appropriate behavior with verbal praise, commendations, rewards, class privileges, and incentives such as Fun Thursday and classroom activities. While the focus of the classroom is to support and encourage good behavior, it is important that both students and parents understand consequences for inappropriate behavior. If a student chooses to break a rule, consequences will be exercised per the Code of Conduct. Please familiarize yourself and your child with these expectations in the Parent Handbook. Students who do not follow the class rules during specialty classes and/or during recess and lunch will also receive disciplinary notices.

Personal Possessions All items brought to school by your child (clothing, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) should be labeled with his/her first and last name. No toys, valuables, etc. should be brought to school. Please review cell phone guidelines in the Code of Conduct.

Birthdays No treats may be brought to school to share with classmates. Students may bring in a trinket or gift for all students on their birthday. Parents may wish to purchase a book for our class library in honor of your child’s birthday. Students may wear non uniform dress as long as their birthday does not fall on a formal uniform day (i.e. Mass). If this should occur the student will arrange with the teacher a different day to wear non-uniform dress.

Weekly Folders All corrected classwork and tests will be stapled together and sent home weekly in their Homeroom folder on Thursdays. Please make an effort to look over and discuss the work together. Students will bring their Homeroom folder back to school the next school day.

IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ALL PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

We will be using a limited number of volunteers this year until the COVID-19 regulations are lifted. All volunteers must be eligible for supervision of students by clearing the fingerprinting requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must have successfully completed the Safe Environment Training. Please contact Mrs. Diana McCarron at dmccarron@serraschool.org or x102 if you need to determine your eligibility.

***Best Wishes to you and your child for a successful year;
together we are partners in their success.
The Fourth Grade Teaching Team***



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Fourth Grade
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**

Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by September 17, 2021.

We have read the Back –to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are signing this acknowledgement to verify that we (parent(s) and student) understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

TeacherName: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name _____ (Printed)

Student Signature

Parent Name _____ (Printed)

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

E-mail Contact Information: _____

Best Number to Reach Parents during the School Day:



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Fourth Grade
Family Life Program Participation Acknowledgement**

**Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by
September 17, 2021.**

Student’s Name and Homeroom _____

Please indicate your choices below by marking them with an “X”.

_____ I do grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in the religion class.

_____ I do **not** grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in the religion class.

ParentName _____ (Print) Date _____

Parent Signature: _____

Comments: _____