



May 2025

Dear 4th grade parents and rising 4th graders,

Welcome to 4th grade at St. Mark's! Summer is a wonderful time to read and write and strengthen your foundational math skills. Rising 4th graders read independently and fluently to gain new information. As writers, they independently compose multiple paragraphs about a topic using correct grammar and punctuation. In math, entering 4th graders are fluent in their multiplication facts up to 12, subtract and add multi-digit numbers, and solve multistep number stories. We are excited to build on these skills next year and encourage you to use the following summer activities to stay familiar.

Each student is asked to read at least 2 books this summer:

1. **1 graphic novel or chapter book from the [Texas Bluebonnet Award List](#) and [HAISLN](#) list**
2. **1 book from the following options for an in-class book study:**
 - ***Frizzy*** by Claribel Ortega, 2022. This charming coming-of-age tale follows Marlene's journey of self-acceptance and confidence as she learns to celebrate her naturally curly hair.
 - ***Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear*** by Trang Nguyen and Jeet Zdung, 2021. This graphic novel is based on the true story of a young girl who becomes a conservationist and returns a sun bear back into the wild.

Please purchase a spiral notebook (8 ½" x 11") of your child's choice to be used as their St. Mark's summer journal. The journal should be divided into three parts:

- **Part 1 — Summer Reading:** Make a list of the books you read over the summer and write about your favorite parts, endings you wish had happened, something the book reminds you of in your own life, predictions, summary, etc.
- **Part 2 – My Summer:** Write, illustrate, or use photos to share your summer adventures!
- **Part 3 – I Wish My Teacher Knew...** Take some time to tell your 4th grade teachers the important things about you. What are you most excited about? Do you have any questions for us? What is your favorite subject? Is there anything else you wish we knew?

For math, we ask all students to practice their math facts frequently. We encourage students to use IXL (available until July 14, 2025) twice a week for 20-30 minutes to build this confidence. **However, please note there is not a requirement to work on math daily.** See below for some additional resources.

- [Sheppard Software](#)
- [Khan Academy](#)
- [Math Printable Sheets](#) for practice (linked is a variety of problems and activities)

When we return to school, bring your reading and writing journal. Feel free to bring any completed math work as well. We look forward to seeing you this August. Until then, have a delightful summer!

Warmly,

Your 4th grade team