



Ms. Montes
2015/2016 Fourth Grade

MISSION

Serving children of Christian parents, we provide Christian education of high academic quality that promotes authentic Christian character among students who will impact the world for Christ.

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Introduction

My Dearest Learners,

How excited I am to be your teacher!

We have an exciting year awaiting us and

I am delighted to share it with you.

I ask for your best efforts and I promise you mine.

I am thrilled to tell you that a book could not contain the number of activities, subjects, topics, and projects that will come our way this year.

We will work together, respecting each other, and encouraging one another.

No one will ever feel left out.

No one will ever be in doubt of who they are as an individual. We will care. We will share.

We will expect our best and nothing less.

Only positive attitudes are allowed.

We will seek to glorify the Lord with our words and actions.

Responsibility, effort, and participation will be the epitome of our class structure.

Our creativity will soar and our thoughts will be engaged.

We will discover together, solve together, question together, and cooperate together.

Today you begin a new journey.

Are you ready?

Miss Montes

Personal Testimony and Teacher Background

It continually amazes me how God can bring such overwhelming blessings beyond what we ever expected when we allow His direction in our lives. Growing up in the city of San Jose, California, I never imagined I would find myself in the beautiful Northwest, but God had plans.

I was blessed to grow up in a Christian home and through faithful teaching and Godly example, I was shown the plan of salvation and accepted the Lord as my Savior at a young age. Attending a Christian school throughout my 12 years of education, my spiritual growth was nurtured, and I dedicated my life to the Lord's service at the age of 14.

I attended San Jose State University and received a BA in Liberal Studies with a minor in Creative Arts. I always had a desire to become a teacher and the Lord made this passion a reality when I was offered a teaching position at the same Christian school I attended growing up! I taught for 7 years in both 3rd and 4th grades. I have also been very involved in the music, drama, and children's ministries in school and church. In the summer of 2005, I moved to Washington and took a year off from teaching to become a student once again by going back to school to obtain my WA teaching credential through Western Washington University. The Lord called me back to Christian education, and I am now very excited about contributing to the ministry here at BCS.

Since moving up north, I've tried to involve myself in many outdoor activities with hiking and running being favorites. I enjoy reading at a café and knitting to relax. Creativity drives me and passion inspires me. I relate to the quote, "Passionate people embrace what they love and never give up," and the passage of John 15:1-17 speaking of the fruit that comes from abiding in Christ.

Yearly Course of Study

Math

- addition, subtraction
- place value
- time and money
- multiplication (1, 2 and 3 digit factors)
- division (1 and 2 digit divisors)
- fractions
- measurement
- geometry
- decimals
- story problems
- graphs

History

- The Years of Discovery
- The Years of Conquest
- The First Americans
- The English Come to America
- The New England Colonies
- The Middle and Southern colonies
- A Picture of Colonial Life
- The Great Awakening
- The French and Indian War
- The American War for Independence
- Building a New Nation
- Our Nation Grows

Reading

- *Saved at Sea* (novel)
- *Prince Caspian by C.S.Lewis*
- *Heidi by Johanna Spyri*
- *Noah Webster: A Man Who Loved Words by Elaine Cunningham*
- *Number the Stars by Lois Lowry*

Spelling

- word lists
- vocabulary
- dictionary skills

Language

- sentences
- writing letters
- the writing process
- subjects and predicates
- nouns
- plurals and verbs
- pronouns and adjectives
- dictionary use
- word usage
- word study

Bible

- The Tabernacle
- God's Judgment and Deliverance of Israel
- The Promised Land
- God's Prophets
- God's fulfillment of Prophecy
- John the Baptist

- Jesus' Birth
- Jesus' Ministry
- Jesus' Teachings
- Book of Isaiah

Science

- digestion
- machines
- electricity
- light
- insects
- animal defense

Penmanship

Music

Art

P.E.

Homework Policy

Expectations

Homework will usually be given daily and is expected back in class the following day unless otherwise noted. All homework is accounted for and responsibility will be reflected in an assessment of life skills.

Homework Folders

Each child will have a specific homework folder with two pockets – one for work and papers *going home* and the other for work and papers *returning to school*. This homework folder will be turned in and sent home daily. Please check them regularly for important notes and assignments. A progress update packet will go home every other week so you may see your child's progress. The packet cover tag is due back within 2 days signed.

Planners

Students will write down their homework assignments daily. **Planners are required to be signed by parent/guardian each night to assure that homework has been completed.** Planners will be checked every morning.

Spelling word lists are assigned every Monday and the tests are given on Friday. Bible memorization work is tested on Fridays. All other assessments are noted in the planner.

Grading Procedures

Assessments are given to check to see if your child is meeting expectations according to objectives in each subject. Letter grades are given for these assessments and translates as feedback of your child's understanding and goal achievement.

The grading scale is in accordance with the school policy and report card interpretation.

A and above	Outstanding; Skills exhibited that go above and beyond class lessons; higher level thinking
A-	Meeting expectation; concept is well understood
B- and above	Close to expectation; missing minor points of concept understanding
C- and above	Student needs help to grasp concept; major points of concept are not yet understood
D- and above	Even with help, student still struggles with concept mastery
F	Student makes no effort to fulfill expectation

Similarly, a \checkmark means meeting expectations, a $\checkmark+$ means above expectations, and a $\checkmark-$ means below expectations. These are not necessarily recorded as a grade.

Classroom Discipline

Our Class Rules:

1. Please raise your hand before your voice takes command.
2. Unless given permission, stay in a seated position.
3. Please explain, don't complain.
4. Respect and encourage, rather than bother and discourage.
5. Take responsibility for your actions, don't blame as a reaction.

Consequences for breaking rules or misbehavior result in loss of privileges or parent contact.

Consequences for following class rules or outstanding behavior result in added privileges, trust with responsibilities, praise and recognition.

4th GRADE SUPPLY LIST 2015-2016

- notebook paper (lined, loose-leaf, not spiral)
- ESV Bible (Those who were in 3rd Grade have one in school already)
- 2 Mead composition books
- 1 inch three-ring binder with the following:
 - 8 subject dividers
 - 2 folders (hole-punched for binder)
- 1 pencil/pen pouch with the following:
 - 12 pencils (#2 lead)
 - 2 pens (blue - erasable preferred)
 - 2 red pens
 - 1 yellow highlighter
 - erasers and personal sharpener
- 1 art supply school box with the following:
 - set of fine-tip markers*
 - crayons (set of 24 or more) * ** with name*
 - set of colored pencils*
 - set of water color paints*
 - scissors*
 - glue stick*
 - Elmer's white liquid glue*
- 12" ruler with inches and centimeters*
- 1 roll of paper towels (for class use)
- 2 containers of cleaning wipes (one for class and one for music)
- 2 pocket folders with brads for music class and PE
- A super **positive** attitude, an **enthusiastic** spirit, a **willingness** to take on challenge and a **heart** driven to **serve God!**

Here we go, Friends!!

Field Trips and Special Projects

Occasional field trips are planned which tie in to educational objectives.

Possible trips include:

- the Seattle Science Center (butterfly exhibit) – Cost – about \$12.00
- the Spark Electricity Museum in Bellingham – Cost - \$7.00
- NW Recycling Center – no cost