

HELLO!

Hello everyone! Welcome to 4th grade! I am so excited about being your child's teacher. I know we will have a wonderful, rewarding year.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I am a proud graduate of Annunciation Catholic School! I attended St. Mary's, as it was called in my day, from 1st-6th grade. In fact, I attended 4th grade in the very same classroom we will be in! I absolutely love being back "home" at ACS.

My husband, Justin, and I live in New Hope. We are expecting our first child (a boy!) in October. We attend First United Methodist Church in Columbus.

I graduated from Mississippi State University in December 2003 with a degree in Elementary Education K-8th grade and a certification in technology K-12. I earned my Masters degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in literacy in 2007 from MSU, as well. In 2008, I earned my National Board Certification in literacy.

This will be my eighth year teaching. I spent three years teaching 2nd grade at West Lowndes Elementary, three years teaching 2nd grade at New Hope Elementary, and have one year under my belt in 4th grade at ACS. Fourth grade is such a fun year, and I know we are going to have a blast together!

This summer, I've got two homework assignments for you: one for the parents and one for the students. Look for more information attached that explains each assignment in detail.

I hope you are enjoying your summer break, and I can't wait to see you guys in August. I am looking forward to a great year!

God Bless,
Ivy Harris

ivharris@cablone.net

Dear Students.



***This is your very first homework assignment for 4th grade!
Don't worry, it will be lots of fun!

***Assignment:** We will be doing a VERY special art project that will help us with our learning all throughout the school year. You will need to collect the following items for your project. Put all of your items in a plastic zipper bag with your name on the outside. Bring them with you to either "Come and Go" or the first day of school. Remember, this project will help us to do a lot of learning this year. So, take your time, be neat and thoughtful, and do your very best!

***Items to Include:**

1. *Current photograph of yourself.* (No baby pictures. This could be a school picture or snapshot. Any size photo is fine.)
2. *Two or three wrappers/logos* from your favorite foods, restaurants, or shops. (You may save a potato chip bag, cut the logo off a McDonald's sack, cut the brand name off of a cereal box, whatever!)
3. *Two "having fun photographs."* (These could be photos from family vacations, from a field trip, from church events, from football games, or from any event where you can remember having fun!)
4. *Ten-twenty magazine/newspaper cut-outs.* (These could be words or pictures that describe you, things you like, or a story about you. You might cut out words like *baseball*, *friend*, *Mossy Oak*. You might cut out pictures of things like ice cream, Justin Beiber, tennis shoes, or pepperoni pizza.)
5. *"Flat Extras"* (Other things you may have at your house or in your bedroom that are special to you, but are still flat. You might find an old admission ticket to a movie, the zoo, or Six Flags. You could include an old nametag from Vacation Bible School, an old friendship bracelet, or the cover from your favorite CD.)

When you are done, your bag should tell me a lot about you! If you have questions, your parents can e-mail me at ivharris@cablone.net or you can ask more questions at "Come and Go".

HOMework!

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:
In a Million Words or Less,
Tell Me About Your Child.

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Surprise! This homework assignment is for you...not your child! I want to make the most of this school year and be the best teacher I can possibly be for your child. Still, as I have quickly learned, behind every great teacher there is an even greater group of supportive parents. You can be sure that I will be calling on you many times this year to help me with things going on in our classroom. However, perhaps the most important thing I will ask you to do all year is this assignment. You see, to be an effective teacher, I must get to know each of my students the best that I possibly can. This is where you come in! After all, you have known your child his/ her entire life, and that gives you a huge advantage! This activity will shorten the time it would normally take for me to get to know your child. I value your opinion, and it will enable me to identify ways to reach your child and develop the potential he/she has.

Please take your time writing a paragraph (or more!) about your child. The goal of this activity is for me to see your child through your eyes. Remember to tell me about his family, interests, strengths, weaknesses, accomplishments, and other important information.

Your "homework" is due by the first day of school. You can either send it to school with your child, or e-mail it to me at ivharris@cableone.net. If you have it ready early, please bring it to "Come and Go"!

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete your assignment. I look forward to a great year with both you and your child.

Sincerely,
Ivy Harris