

Birthdays

While we don't make a big event of birthdays, students are welcome to bring in treats to celebrate their special day with the class, if they choose. The district Wellness Policy encourages nutritious snacks that are individually wrapped, but this is at your discretion. Please try to send in related items like napkins, plates, etc. as needed. Please send items to school with your child in the morning, if possible, so we can celebrate as our schedule allows. If your child has a summer birthday, we can celebrate at any time they wish. Please just let me know in advance.

Communication

I am always interested in speaking with parents about their children's education. The best ways to get in touch are

- ⊙ Email me at ***
- ⊙ send a note (or write in planbook) telling me a convenient time to call
- ⊙ call the office and leave a message ***
- ⊙ stop by the classroom *after school* (mornings are very busy)



Please make sure that all the following have been turned in:



- ★ enrollment card
- ★ emergency medical forms (2)
- ★ student fees
- ★ early dismissal form
- ★ Internet Acceptable Use policy
- ★ student information questionnaire
- ★ Time for Kids fee

I am looking forward to a productive school year with a great group of fourth graders and parents!

Sincerely,

signature

Please sign the attached slip and return to school by Friday.



Dear Parents,

Welcome to fourth grade! My name is *** and I will be your child's teacher this year. I am excited to have your child in class and eager to get to know and work with you. The most important aspects of the parent-teacher relationship are communication and teamwork. Please communicate with me often regarding the progress you see, areas of concern that might develop, or questions you may have.**

Rules

Fourth grade is a year of great transition. Students will find that we have very high expectations for learning and behavior. Students are expected to take full responsibility for their own behavior and learning. School rules are listed in the ***handbook and in the classroom, and it is expected that they will be followed. Classroom rules are brief and should be easy to follow. They are

- 1) Come prepared to learn. (This includes bringing necessary supplies, homework, planbook, etc. It also involves coming to class with a "ready to learn" attitude.)
- 2) Let the teacher teach.
- 3) Let others learn.

I am sure you and your child will find these rules to be fair and reasonable.

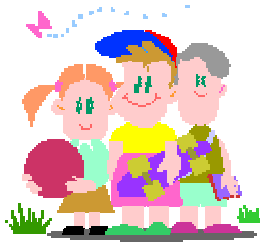
Class Website

Our class has its own website at ***. It has lots of information including our weekly newsletters and spelling words, photos and helpful links. Please be sure to visit often for updates.**



Switching and Specials

In 4th grade, students have "switch" times. During this time, students receive instruction from the other 4th grade teachers. Mrs. *** teaches science and health, Mrs. **** teaches social studies, and I teach math to all classes. Mrs. *** is the resource teacher that will work with some fourth grade students. Students will travel to the other two 4th grade rooms for science and social studies. This is different from 3rd grade when the teachers moved from class to class. This will require the students to be very organized. During a typical week, students will have social studies and science/health Monday-Thursday and math Monday-Friday. Each teacher teaches language arts to her homeroom class.



Special Classes

Monday Music & Library
Tuesday Music
Wednesday Phys. Ed.
Thursday Art
Friday Phys. Ed.

Lunch is at 12:15 and recess is from 12:30-1:00.

Newsletters & Behavior Report Cards

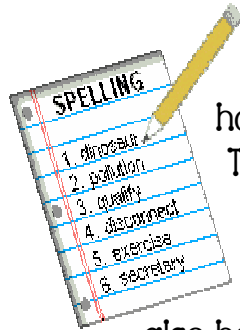
Each Monday, students will receive a class newsletter, telling important information about school and class events, projects, tests, homework, and more. On Fridays, students will receive a behavior report card. The behavior report card (BRC) will give you an idea of your child's behavior during the previous week. Students earn a stamp on their BRC for every day they have no "flips" (a color flip indicates a broken rule). The rule broken will be noted. Please sign the behavior report card and return it to school by the following Wednesday. Students receive "cat cash" to spend monthly at the *** Cat Store for each stamp earned on a signed BRC.

Accelerated Reader

Each quarter, students will have an AR reading goal to work towards. This point goal is based upon the number of points students earn by reading books on their level and taking related quizzes. Another part of the goal is based upon the average score they earn on their AR quizzes. The percent of goal achieved along with the average percent correct will together account for one third of the quarterly reading grade. You can monitor AR progress by following the AR Home Connect link on the website.



Spelling



Each Friday, students will take a spelling pretest in class. Most of the words will follow a pattern, but students will also have five words based upon content or their individual needs. They will have three assignments to complete using their words the following Monday-Wednesday; then they will study and on Friday they will take their test. All spelling assignments are to be done **in cursive**. Spelling grades will also be taken from written work in other subject areas. Students

who are misspelling words they should know in any subject area can have points deducted from their final spelling grade.

Assignments/Homework

I believe that homework is a valuable tool for reinforcing what students have been taught, providing practice, encouraging study skills, and assessing students' learning. Please read the homework policy in the *** parent handbook. Students are expected to record all daily assignments in their planbooks. Please review the assignments nightly and sign the planbook every night as well. The planbook will be checked each day to be sure it is signed. Students will face negative consequences for not having their planbooks signed. Students should expect homework (about 40 minutes) each night. Usually we try to avoid giving homework over weekends, but it may become necessary on occasion. Although it *may not* be recorded in their planbooks, all students have a nightly assignment to read for at least 20 minutes, including weekends. Please enforce this "unwritten rule" for your child's benefit.

Late Homework



Students who fail to turn in an assignment on time will receive a homework stamp in their planbook. This is to make you aware of late or missing work. Your signature on the planbook page will indicate your awareness of the missing assignment. They may turn in the work late, with the score lowered one letter grade for each day the assignment is late. If the work is not turned in by the fifth day, they will receive a zero for that assignment. I expect students to be responsible and organized, so late homework should be a very rare occurrence.

Achievement Testing

In late April, your child will take Achievement tests in the areas of writing, reading, and math. These tests are designed to measure student mastery of concepts and curriculum taught from grades K-4 in these core subjects. Although I don't believe in "teaching to the test," I will design lessons so that students become familiar and comfortable with the format and expectations of the test and have the necessary skills to be successful. Students will take a practice tests to help us to identify areas of concern where intervention may be needed. Intervention classes will be scheduled. You will receive more information about testing as the year progresses.