

4th Grade Handbook



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Literacy Instruction



Reading

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world.
Love of books is the best of all."
-Jacqueline Kennedy

Goals:

- Each student will be assessed by their teacher. This will allow the teacher to get an individual reading level and a comprehensive understanding of each child as a reader.
- Students will be instructed to understand the importance of choosing appropriate literature using personal interest, genre, recommendations, and book level.
- Students will focus on comprehension and fluency daily.

Readers' Workshop Includes:

- Mini-lesson - Whole Group Instruction
- Interactive Read Aloud time
- Independent Reading with Individual Conferencing
- Small Group Instruction
- Book Clubs
- Writing Reflection and Sharing

Units of Study:

Building a reading life, characters in fiction, fantasy, expository and narrative non-fiction



Writing



"Be yourself. Above all, let who you are, what you are, what you believe, shine through every sentence you write, every piece you finish."

-John Jakes

Goals:

- Students will develop confidence and self expression through their every day writing.
- Students will understand and create several pieces of writing within a variety of genres.
- Students will explore author's craft to expand their knowledge of writing elements and style.

Writers' Workshop Includes:

- Mini-Lesson - Whole Group Instruction
- Independent Writing with Individual Conferencing
- Sharing and Reflection

Units of Study:

Narrative fiction, opinion essays, literary essays, research and informational writing

Word Study/Vocabulary

Goals:

- Students will study word patterns to become better spellers within their every day writing.
- Students will study the meaning of new words in context and be given opportunities to engage with new words and tools to learn new words



Math

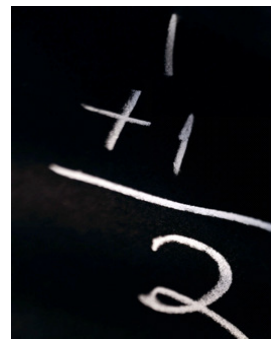
Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.
-Albert Einstein

Goal:

- Students will use objects, drawings, conceptual language, and real-world situations to help build mathematical strategies and fluency.

Format:

- Whole Group Instruction
- Guided Practice
- Independent Work
- Math Talk



Units of Study:

- Place Value and multi-digit addition and subtraction
- Multiplication of 2, 3, and 4 digit numbers
- Division of multi-digit numbers with a 1 digit divisor
- Using algebraic equations to solve word problems
- Metric and U.S. Customary Measurement including area and perimeter
- Adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers
- Comparing fractions and decimals
- Geometry

Science

The most remarkable discovery made by scientists is science itself. -Gerard Piel

Units of Study:

- States of Matter
- Organisms In Their Environment
- A View From the Earth

Social Studies

History will be kind to me for I intend to write it.
-Winston Churchill

Units of Study:

- The United States in Spatial Terms
- Our Federal Government
- Exploring Economics
- Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship



Homework



- **Reading Logs**- Reading logs will be handed out for students to keep track of their time reading. The expectation is that students will need to read a minimum of 20 minutes a day, 4 times a week in their "just right" books. Students are encouraged to read more over the weekends.
- **Math** - Students will be given math assignments to practice concepts we have learned about in class. These will be given on a regular basis and your child's teacher will let you know how they plan to send math homework home.
- **Writing** - Please check your child's planner each evening. Writing homework will be given on an "as needed" basis. It will not be given every evening.
- **Word Study** - Your child will have a new set of high frequency words each week on Monday, and these words will be assessed on Friday. Each teacher will also send word study homework home one time a week to review a skill taught during the week and your child's teacher will let you know which day that will be this year.
- **Unfinished Work** - If your child has difficulty finishing class work and they have been given a fair amount of time to complete the work in class, they may be asked to take it home and complete it by the next day.

Discipline

Our classroom environment is centered on the belief that all students are capable of being responsible, respectful and safe. Discipline is providing students with the knowledge and opportunity to make positive choices and allowing students to experience rewards and consequences for their actions. Just as students' talents are unique, so are behaviors. Natural rewards and consequences will be determined individually. I will contact you should there be any problems, but more importantly to celebrate the positive behaviors and achievements of your student!

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