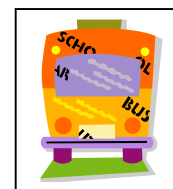


Team Hall & Wilson
Fourth Grade
2015-16



Welcome to 4th Grade! We are looking forward to a wonderful year. Please read the following information to familiarize yourself with the policies and procedures, as well as academic and behavioral expectations for fourth grade.

Morning Meeting

The students will begin their day with Morning Meeting. This is a valuable time for students to greet one another and participate in community building activities. As we grow as a community of learners, students will feel valued, learn to support one another, and be less anxious about taking risks. This is a great time to reinforce the 7 Habits!

Homework Expectations

Students are responsible for copying all homework assignments in their agenda book and gathering all necessary materials at the end of each day. Students are responsible for taking home a chapter book for their nightly reading (a minimum of 30 minutes).

Homework is checked daily. It should be neat, complete, and on time. If a student forgets or does not complete homework, he/she will complete it during recess detention. If a student continues to forget homework, he/she will stay in during Friday Fling to reflect on their responsibility and/or behavior.

Binder

Students will keep work related to all subjects and transport homework to and from school in the binder. The student's reading log and DOM is housed in the front followed by the other subjects. We will periodically "clean out" the binder, but students should always try to keep it neat and organized.

Graded Work Folder

On Tuesdays, students will bring home their **Graded Work** (black) folder, which will contain their graded work from the previous week. Please look over the papers with your child, sign the cover page indicating you have seen their work, and return the folder *with the graded work* by Thursday. I find these folders beneficial because parents are made aware of their child's progress throughout the year.

Daily Schedule

You will find a copy of our class schedule in this Open House folder. The schedule is also posted on our class webpage. Please consider the schedule when making medical appointments.

Web page Calendar & Newsletter

Mrs. Hall and Ms. Wilson will post tests, projects, and other events on the class calendar located on the class web pages. Please check the calendar frequently for updates or changes. In addition, a team newsletter will be sent home via email each Friday for the upcoming week. The newsletter will keep you informed on school/grade-level events, tests, projects, and other reminders.

At Home Study Area

A quiet, peaceful study area at home is a must! It is helpful to have a basket of supplies in this area so that your child doesn't have to spend time searching for them. Suggested items: pencils, pens, glue, a ruler, index cards, scissors, a highlighter, paperclips, colored pencils, crayons, markers, and a stapler.

Fourth Grade Discipline Policy

The fourth grade focuses on all students exhibiting leadership. Everyone will begin their day on "Ready to Lead." Students who exhibit extra effort over and beyond the regular expectations will have the opportunity to move their clip up on the chart. Please note, it is not a failure in any way for a student to stay on "Ready to Lead" each day.

Students who make poor choices will move their clip down on the chart. When a clip is moved to "Slow Down," it is considered a warning. Moving a clip to "Turn It Around" will result in recess detention. If a student reaches "Think About It," he or she will visit with Mrs. Treadwell in the office and the parents will be contacted.

If a student goes to recess detention or misses Friday Fling (an extra recess for hard work and good behavior), he/she will complete a form which guides them to reflect on their behavior or lack of responsibility. Please sign this form and return to school.

Am I Being a Leader Today?
Hip, Hip, Hooray!
Ready to Lead
Slow Down
Turn It Around!
Think About It!

Conferences

In October at the end of the first nine weeks, student-led conferences will be conducted. This is a valuable meeting where the students, parent(s), and teacher sit down to reflect on the first nine weeks of school. Student goals are set for the next nine weeks at this meeting. In the spring, optional conference times are offered for those parents who would like to meet. If you feel a conference is necessary at any other time during the year, please email Mrs. Hall at hallk@mtnbrook.k12.al.us or Ms. Wilson at wilsonj@mtnbrook.k12.al.us and we will be happy to set up a time to meet with you.

Absences

Please email an excuse when your child is absent and copy Mrs. Sevier so she will have a record of the excuse. See the MBE Handbook concerning attendance policies.

Visitation Policy

Please sign in at the front office when visiting the school. This is for the protection and safety of our children.

Snacks

Please send a healthy snack each day. Students will be able to "refuel" while working. Water bottles may also be brought to school, but must be taken home at the end of the day. Please refrain from sending anything other than regular water. In addition, there are a number of students in the grade with a peanut allergy. Please be mindful of this when buying snack and/or lunch items for your child.

Birthdays

What student doesn't like to celebrate their birthday? Each child may bring a treat for the class to enjoy during our lunch time (11:45-12:15). Any student who has a summer birthday may bring a treat on their $\frac{1}{2}$ birthday. Please be mindful that we have several students with nut allergies when bringing in treats.

ACADEMICS

Reading

Our class will participate in a reading workshop where students learn reading skills and strategies through well-planned, structured mini-lessons. A variety of resources will be used (Lucy Calkins Units of Study, novels, *National Geographic Explorer* magazine, Comprehension Toolkit, *Storyworks* magazine, etc.).

Reading Units this year include:

1st 9 weeks- Fiction reading unit "*Interpreting Characters*"

2nd 9 weeks- Nonfiction reading unit "*Reading the Weather, Reading the World*"

3rd 9 weeks- Historical Fiction Book Clubs

4th 9 weeks - "If Then" Poetry Unit / Class Novel Study *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Students will be assessed throughout the year in various formats: reading response journal, tests, conferences, literature groups, etc. Students must **always** have something to read at school since reading authentic literature is at the core of our reading workshop. Our goal for your child is to foster a love for reading and to become a life-long reader.

Students are expected to read a minimum of 30 minutes each night and record their reading on their reading log. In addition, they will complete one reading response each week in class.

Writing

Students will be writing using the **Writing Process** which includes: brainstorming, first draft, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing their final copy. All published work will be kept in a portfolio. However, published pieces are not expected to be "perfect pieces." Part of the process is teaching students to revise and edit their own writing. **Our main goal is to improve the writer not the writing. We want to develop lifelong writers.** You can help by talking to your child at home about their writing ideas they have and help them think about things that happen in their daily lives that might make a good story.

Students will be writing every day. During Writing Workshop, the class participates in whole or small group mini-lessons (determined by the needs of the class). Finally, the students will frequently conference with Mrs. Hall as well as their peers about their writing. Students will write in a different genre for each of the four nine weeks:

1st 9 weeks- Personal Narrative

2nd 9 weeks- Opinion/Persuasive Writing

3rd 9 weeks- Informational Writing / Written responses in Historical fiction book clubs.

4th 9 weeks - Realistic Fiction Stories / Poetry

Grammar

Our goal is to teach grammar skills using authentic literature and hands-on activities so students will be able to apply the rules in their own writing.

We will keep rules and examples for the skills we are currently learning in our binder in the Grammar section. A short quiz will be given periodically that will assess your child's knowledge and application of these skills.

Units: Capitalization, Punctuation, Quotation Marks/Punctuating Dialogue, Verbs, Pronouns, Adverbs, Prepositional Phrases, Sentence Structure and Text Layout.

Spelling

Spelling words will be introduced on Monday. Your child will be responsible for writing words in their Agenda book; words will also be sent home in the newsletter each week. Spelling patterns and rules, along with words will be reinforced each week through hands-on games and activities and practiced in a Spelling workbook kept at school. The Spelling test will be given on Friday mornings each week.

Math

Investigations by Pearson Education, Inc., is a hands-on program which teaches students to think more deeply about numbers and learn different strategies for solving problems. In addition to Investigations, we use a variety of resources to teach the common core standards.

A Daily Oral Math quiz is given each **Friday**. Students will work weekly practice problems in their Math folder to prepare for the quiz. These problems will be checked daily.

Mastery of multiplication facts is critical in fourth grade. Please continue to work at home with your child as we will assess multiplication fluency every Friday.

Science

Your child will be learning about electric circuits, the solar system, structures of life (animals), landforms, and sound through hands-on units of study. Student progress will be assessed through projects, assignments, and tests throughout each unit.

Alabama History

Our Alabama History textbook is Alabama: Our Beautiful Home published by Clairmont Press. Students will read and study the material in the textbook as well as from other sources such as Alabama Weekly (newspaper). Students will be

assessed in a variety of ways including chapter tests. Finally, the fourth grade classes will visit Montgomery in the fall, which will spark much interest in our state's past and present.

Intervention

Intervention is a block of time each day (8:15-8:45), where I will conduct intervention lessons and/or conference with individual students or small groups based on student needs. Please be sure your child is on time to school!!

Projects

Major projects are given far enough in advance so all students will have a fair advantage in completing them. Therefore, grades for major projects that are not turned in on time will be lowered one letter grade for each day that it is late. If the project is not turned in one week from the due date, then the student will earn a zero for the assignment.

A Final Note

Please know that as the needs of our class change and as the year advances, there may be changes in our class policies and procedures. These changes will be purposeful and will be communicated to you.

In conclusion, fourth grade is a crucial year for emphasizing responsibility, organization, and self-discipline. Your child's study habits, self-motivation, and the ability to exercise self-discipline is forming. The emphasis we (parent & teacher) place on teaching the desired goals in these areas is extremely important. We will be doing many things in school to promote, teach, and encourage success in these areas. We hope that by the end of the year, you will see tremendous gains for your child in all areas.

We will check voicemail and e-mail at the end of the day and will respond as quickly as possible. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with your child!

How can you reach us?

School: 871-8191

E-mail at school: hallk@mtnbrook.k12.al.us
wilsonj@mtnbrook.k12.al.us

Sincerely,

Kim Hall and Jennifer Wilson