

## The Fourth Grade Team 2019-20

Welcome to 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Teachers will also conduct lessons on social & emotional curriculum. 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 during each block 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.

### Binder

Students will keep work related to all subjects and transport homework to and from school in their binder. 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** folder, which will contain their graded work from the previous week. Please look over the papers with your child, sign the signature page indicating you have seen their work, and return the folder **with the graded work** by Thursday. We find these folders beneficial because parents are made aware of their child's progress throughout the year.

### Daily Schedule

Class schedules are posted on each class's webpage. Please consider the schedule when making medical appointments.

### Newsletter

Every Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> grade newsletter will be sent home via email. The newsletter will keep you informed on school/grade-level events, tests, projects, and other reminders.

### Fourth Grade Discipline Policy

The fourth grade focuses on all students exhibiting leadership. For poor behavior choices, students will receive a warning. If he/she fails to adjust their behavior, parents will be emailed. Students who do not complete homework and/or make poor choices will attend detention during recess.

### 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 us and we will be happy to set up a time to meet with you.

### Absences

MBS Attendance Protocol can be accessed on the school webpage in the Parent Resources section. The excuse form can be accessed on the MBE home page.

Missing more than ten (10) days of school per semester is considered excessive absence. If a student misses more than 10 days for medical reasons per semester, the parent/guardian may be required to provide written medical verification for the subsequent absence from a licensed physician stating that the absence was a medical necessity. If written medical verification is not received, the absence will be unexcused unless the absence is due to excused reason other than illness.

Please email an excuse within three days when your child is absent and copy Mrs. Hollingsworth 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. Beginning this year, we will be using a scanner to print visitor badges anytime you join us on campus for meetings and activities. Please remember to bring your driver's license with you anytime you are joining us at MBE School. Thank you for all you do to help keep our students and schools safe!

### Snacks

Please send a healthy, nut-free 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.

### Birthdays

What student doesn't like to celebrate their birthday? Each child may bring a treat for their homeroom class only to enjoy during our lunch time (12:15-12:45). Please communicate what type of treat will be brought at least 48 hours prior. Remember, any student who has a summer birthday may bring a treat on their  $\frac{1}{2}$  birthday.

## 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, Comprehension Toolkit, *Storyworks* magazine, Jennifer Seravallo, etc.).

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 4 nights each week for 30 minutes. Each student is required to read a minimum of 4 books a 9 weeks. Students are expected to log each book finished on Biblionasium. In lieu of a weekly reading log, students will have a daily check-in with Ms. Collins.

### **Writing**

Students will be writing using the **Writing Process** which includes: brainstorming, first draft, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing their final copy.

However, published pieces are not expected to be "perfect pieces." Part of the process is teaching students to revise and edit their own writing. You can help by talking to your child at home about their writing ideas and helping them think about events that happen in their daily lives that might make a good story.

### **Grammar**

Our goal is to teach grammar skills using authentic literature, so students will be able to apply the rules in their own writing. Students will be doing Patterns of Power sentences daily and making observations about punctuation, parts of speech and sentence structure.

We will keep rules and examples for the skills we are currently learning in our Grammar Skills Notebook. 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 with ongoing practice throughout the week. Spelling tests will be given on Fridays. Words will be sent home in the newsletter each week and can also be found in the Word Study notebook in the binder.

### **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 DOM quiz is given every other **Friday**. Students will work weekly practice problems in their DOM section of their binder to prepare for the quiz. These problems will be checked daily.

What to expect in math? Nightly homework, notebook grades, DOM quizzes, end of unit tests, and graded written math responses.

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

### **Science**

Students will complete projects and assignments from hands-on modules using STEMscopes and Project Lead The Way. Students will be assessed through projects, assignments, and tests throughout each unit. In addition, I will be teaching robotics and coding.

### **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.

To access the online textbook: [www.mystatehistory.com](http://www.mystatehistory.com)

Username: almsh20

Password: almsh20

### **Intervention**

Intervention is a block of time each day (10:10-10:40), where we will conduct intervention lessons in Math and Reading and/or conference with individual students or small groups based on student needs. This is a valuable time used to reteach or reinforce previously taught skills.

### **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: Meredith Collins [collinsm@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:collinsm@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)  
Ashley Margaritis [margaritisa@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:margaritisa@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)  
Loretta Rowan [rowanl@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:rowanl@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)  
Jennifer Wilson [wilsonj@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:wilsonj@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)

Sincerely,

*Meredith Collins, Ashley Margaritis,  
Loretta Rowan, and Jennifer Wilson*