

Welcome to Fourth Grade!

Hello and welcome to the fourth grade here at Hopewell Elementary School! My name is Rob Kartychak and I will be your child's math teacher this year. For those of you who are unfamiliar with me, this is my twelfth year in the district. I spent the first eight years teaching sixth grade, and this is my fourth year teaching fourth grade. I earned my Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education at Clarion University of Pennsylvania as well as my Masters of Education in Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Finally, I also possess a teaching Middle School Math Certificate for grades 7-9.

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Extra Help

If your child is experiencing difficulty, please encourage them to ask questions in class or see me immediately for extra assistance. Waiting will only allow for further confusion. Extra time is available most days during recess, or before/after school.

Extra Credit

Traditionally, I do not offer individual extra credit assignments as there are multiple opportunities for a child to improve their grade. On rare occasions I will offer an opportunity to the entire class.

Closing

I am very excited at the opportunity to work with your child. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with me if you have any questions or concerns or if a situation would arise that I need to be aware of. I look forward to meeting many of you at Open House on Thursday, September 12th.

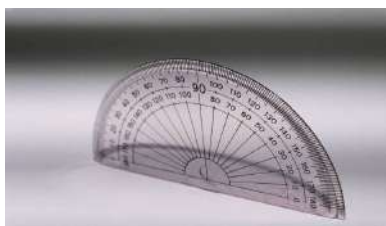
"Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes."
~Oscar Wilde

A Quick Reference Guide to Mr. Kartychak's Math Class at Hopewell Elementary School



Everyday Mathematics

The philosophy of the Everyday Math program is to enable children in elementary grades to learn more mathematical content and become life-long mathematical thinkers. The key components of the Everyday Math program are to solve problems using everyday situations, develop concepts through hands-on explorations and activities, practice through games, and provide ongoing cumulative review of skills previously taught. Our focus is to build on and reinforce previously learned skills. Fourth grade math instructs students in skills that are necessary to apply mathematical concepts to everyday situations. We focus on geometry, computation, problem solving, logical reasoning, probability, and application.



Communication

Communication will be maintained through the use of your child's planner and email. All test dates, homework assignments, and missed homework assignments will be recorded in their planner. I encourage you to sign their planner daily and include any notes as needed in there as well. Frequently, I will email calendar lesson dates (month at a time) and a general overview of what is occurring in my class.

That is also accessible at:
http://www.hopewell.k12.pa.us/Kartychak_Rob.aspx

Grading

Your children will be assessed quite frequently using a variety of assessments to provide different lenses in which to determine their understanding of the topic at hand. Brief overviews of those assessments are as follows:

- Homework will be given nightly (Monday thru Thursday) and will be worth two points per assignment. Assignments must be completed and submitted on time to receive credit. Random assignments will be collected and assessed for accuracy. Students earning less than a 70% may be required to submit corrections during recess and could earn back $\frac{1}{2}$ of their points for corrections.
- Quizzes are traditionally given once per chapter, and are usually worth around 20 points. We will review the concepts leading up to the quiz. Having your child review the homework assignments is one of the most effective strategies for studying for the quizzes.
- Tests are given once per chapter, usually worth around 50 points. There will be an in-class review the day before the test. The review will consist of problems that are comparable to the test problems, just with different numbers.
- Random Math Boxes will be graded from the math journal. As with

the homework, students that earn less than 70% on that assignment will be afforded the opportunity to submit corrections during recess to earn additional points.

- Two or three problem solving situations will be assigned throughout each quarter. The problem solving situations will vary and focus on different tasks but are designed to have the students think critically and provide detailed explanations of their thought process in solving the task. These problem solving assignments are traditionally valued at 10 points per task depending on the complexity. Most problem solving assignments are given a week for completion for children to learn time management skills.

