

4C Guidelines & Expectations

Classroom Expectations

Fourth grade students are expected to show great character while at school. Our core class rules of respect, responsibility, and peaceful behavior should serve as a guide for students in the decisions they make here at school.

Respect – Students will respect peers, teachers, administrators, school workers, volunteers, and guests. Students must also show respect to all classroom and school property and do their best to ensure equipment and materials are taken care of and returned in their best shape.

Responsibility – Students are responsible for ensuring that all assigned homework is completed to the best of their ability on the date it is due. Students are also responsible for their actions and decisions while at school.

Peace – All students will act in a manner that promotes peace and positivity. This includes showing kindness to all members of our learning community.

In fourth grade there is a strong emphasis on preparation, organization, and responsibility. As a part of our morning routine, students will fill out their assignment notebook with the day's homework and important reminders. The planner must be initialed by a parent each night to verify that all homework has been completed. This verification earns the student a reward ticket each morning. Students expected to bring their backpack, homework folder, assignment notebook, and completed homework assignments to school each day.

Homework Policy

It is expected that all homework assignments are completed to the student's full potential and brought to school on the set due date. Each student will be granted one late assignment exception per quarter. Any missing or late work following that one exception will result in an automatic lunch detention. This does not mean that the student is excused from completing the work, but rather that it must be submitted in its entirety the following school day. Any missing or late work following that one exception will result in a lunch detention (including failure to submit the completed "free pass" work the following school day).

Rewards & Incentives

Each student has the opportunity to earn a daily ticket that can be used towards special classroom rewards. The tickets are handed out each morning to students who have all homework completed and a parent initial in the planner for the previous day. Tickets can be lost throughout the day as a result of poor behavior choices. Students end the day by placing their tickets in raffle bins marked with special rewards. Our marble jar allows the class to work together to earn rewards. In addition, our IOO Club provides a special surprise for students who earn a perfect score on a math, science, or literacy test!

Curricular Expectations

There is a strong emphasis on differentiation of instruction and assessment in our class. Differentiation means that your child is going to be working with content and assignments that best fit his or her learning needs, academic level, and learning style. The avenue by which students practice concepts and display knowledge may differ from student to student, but the end goals are the same for all learners. Differentiating allows teachers to support students as individuals and help them thrive at their full potential.

As part of the fourth grade curricular expectations, students are required to complete **classwork and homework assignments in cursive handwriting**. This is a district procedure that applies to all fourth graders. Cursive handwriting practice sheets are offered to students in class and available upon request. You can also access custom printables online using the link on our class website.

A Friday Folder is part of the students' weekly homework assignments. The folder is sent home every Friday afternoon and contains notes and completed assignments from the week. Students are responsible for ensuring that the folder is emptied with a parent, initialed by a parent, and returned to school Monday morning. Although almost all notes are sent on Friday, an occasional item may need to go home on another day. Notes such as these will always be placed in the student's homework folder.

Student grades are calculated according to the following percentages (for all subject areas):

Assessments: 40% Daily Work: 50% Homework: 10%

Fourth Grade Curriculum Details

Math

Fourth grade has two different math placements, regular and advanced. Students placed in advanced math have earned higher than typical math scores on state ISAT testing and district Discovery testing. Advanced math students typically move through the material at a quicker pace according to their abilities. Due to the variation in math placements, your child may have a different teacher for math.

Regardless of placement, all students will use the *Saxon GoMath!* program. This interactive program is new to the district and focuses on technology and the application of math concepts into real-world situations. It is common core aligned and teaches students a wide array of methods for solving math equations. There is a strong focus on the process of problem solving and justification for methods. This program includes many useful online resources. You can expect your child to have homework each night. Tests occur at the end of each unit and will include a review beforehand.

Students will also work with constructed response problems on a regular basis. Constructed response math problems require students to solve a math problem and then justify the strategy and steps used. Students must include a specific and in-depth explanation using correct math terms. Students will be assessed on constructed response throughout the school year.

Literacy

Our *Good Habits Great Readers* program is used for shared reading and guided reading. The scope and sequence of *Good Habits Great Readers* can be found on our class website. It outlines topics and concepts we will cover this year. There you can also find a detailed explanation of the *Daily 5* format that we will follow during guided reading. Most literacy concepts will be covered in 4-5 days and will conclude with a Workshop assessment.

Fourth grade students are required to complete quarterly book report projects. Students will be given two genre choices from which to choose and must have a book preapproved by their teacher. Books should fall within the student's "just right" (independent) reading level according to DRA. Once the approval deadline has passed, students will be given 2-3 project options to choose from. The project of choice is completed at home with minimal help from parents after the book has been completed. Book report projects are assigned 6-8 weeks before they are due. Additional details can be found on our class website.

Writing & Language Arts

Much of our writing instruction will make use of the 6 Traits of Writing. Students will explore ways to create, review, and improve various writing genres using the traits of ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, and conventions. We will also explore various forms of informational writing. Writing selections will be graded using the 6 Traits Rubric or a variation of that document. A copy of this rubric is available on our class website.

Students will use the *Words Their Way* program for spelling, phonics, and word instruction. This program explores word concepts to help students understand phonics, letter patterns, and basic spelling guidelines. Students will have a weekly word list and are required to complete various word activities at home to promote exposure to words and concepts.

Science

Our science series is *Pearson Scott Foresman* and includes many hands-on experiments that we will complete throughout the school year. A test will be used to assess each chapter of science. Students will be given a review sheet and vocabulary flashcards to help prepare for each test. Our science series offers online links and activities to help enhance the concepts.

Social Studies

Our *Houghton Mifflin Social Studies* series is comprised of units that examine each of the four regions of the United States; east, south, midwest, and west. Students will be assessed at the end of each unit in the form of hands-on, interactive projects.

Fourth grade is a big year for the fifty states! Students are required to learn the names and locations of all 50 states and capitals. States and capitals tests will be separated by region. Students will learn state names and locations in each region first and then move on to incorporate the capitals. Flashcards will be created in class to help prepare for the states and capitals tests.