

# 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Packet 2017-2018



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## My primary goal as the teacher of your child is to create an environment which:

- fosters a love for learning
- promotes academic excellence
- promotes the development of good study and work skills that will serve as a foundation for life-long learning
- encourages a sense of community and family
- allows students to strive for and achieve their personal best

## Communication between Teacher and Parent

The best way to contact me is usually email. We'll respond as quickly as possible. Calling the school is another good way to reach me. If you call from 7:45-8:10 or 3:30-4:00 you'll have the best chance of getting to speak to us directly and immediately. Otherwise, we'll call you back at our earliest convenience.

Each month we'll share 2 newsletters with important upcoming dates, events, and information about what we're learning in our classroom. One will be emailed directly from your classroom teacher at the beginning of the month and the other will be posted on our 4<sup>th</sup> grade website and shared with you via a link about mid-month.

## Student Planners

Students are expected to bring their planner to school every day and take them home each night. We will check student planners each morning, so if you have a note for us this would be a great place to put it. It's asked that a parent or guardian sign planners every evening, indicating their observance of any important information. Any homework will be marked with a circled "H" next to the assignment. Please also check your child's take-home folder regularly for classwork and notes from the office.

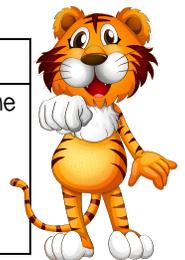
## PBIS

We are a PBIS school. Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports is a process for creating school environments that are more predictable and effective for achieving academic and social goals. PBIS will enhance our current systems and practices and also change our culture for the better. We celebrate positive behavior by "catching" students in the act and rewarding them with a Tiger Ticket. Students have the opportunity to earn various rewards by earning tickets and filling up their Tiger Ticket Tracker. We also work as a team to fill our class ticket bucket and enjoy a whole-class reward. In addition, there's a school wide assembly each quarter where we celebrate the positive behavior we're seeing at DeSoto—these are so much fun!

Problem behavior will be responded to with consistent consequences that are focused on re-teaching the expected behavior. There are occasionally circumstances that require parent assistance, and I'll be in contact as those circumstances occur.

## Classroom Expectations:

<u>R</u> espect <u>O</u> thers	<u>A</u> lways Safe	Be <u>R</u> esponsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be kind with words and actions</li><li>• Actively listen</li><li>• Use appropriate voice level</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report problems immediately</li><li>• Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself</li><li>• Use equipment as intended</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Follow directions the first time given</li><li>• Be prepared</li><li>• Ask for help when needed</li></ul>



## Snacks

Students may bring their own small, healthy snack each day or they may opt to not have a snack. If you have any concerns with this, please do not hesitate to contact me. Students may bring special treats for their birthday. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate their half-birthday. We love to help them celebrate their special day!

## ADM District Allergy Policy

- To promote a safe environment for all students preschool-12th grade, homemade treats will not be allowed.
- All snacks and treats must be:
  - Prepackaged with full ingredient lists
  - Sent to school in unopened, original containers
- Whole, uncut fruits and vegetables are encouraged.
- Please be aware that snacks or treats not following these procedures will be sent home with the child.
- If you have any additional questions on this policy, please visit with the school nurse, Mrs. Storck.

## Homework

Is homework what fourth grade is all about? Absolutely not! However, some homework is important because it aids in helping each student make the most out of their experience in school. Students should plan to read at least 20 minutes each night. Reading at home will foster growth of strategies and skills worked on each day at school. Students might also have math homework to extend and reinforce concepts taught in class. Students should expect to study for upcoming unit assessments in math, science, and social studies. Writing projects may require work at home and spelling words should be studied at home on a weekly basis. Throughout the year, we will work on developing positive and worthwhile study habits.

Not completing homework may result in a loss of recess or privileges. When illness occurs and assignments are missed, parents may call to pick up the work. Please allow us appropriate time to prepare and gather needed materials. We usually discuss missed work with students on their return and we decide on a reasonable time to have that work made up.

### You can help your child succeed in completing homework by:

- Providing a quiet study area
- Establishing a daily homework time and routine
- Providing positive support and encouragement
- Checking that homework is completed before signing their planner

## What About Grades?

There are many components to a student's grade. Student progress and growth will be observed each day and many different pieces make up a final grade in a subject. These pieces include, but are not limited to: observation of class work, small & large group discussion, participation in daily activities, unit assessments, and homework.

### Grading Scale

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	63-66%
D-	60-62%
F	50-59%

# A Day in the Life of a Fourth Grader

## **Reading with Guided & Independent Reading**

Mini-lessons are given each day at the beginning of workshop. These lessons focus on reading strategies and are based on students' needs. Reading processes are modeled and practiced as we think aloud and demonstrate the use of strategies. We also spend time learning new vocabulary and discussing it throughout the week.

Students will be accountable for silent, independent reading. Independent reading books will be recorded in a reading log. Reading of different genres will be encouraged.

Reading conferences and guided reading discussions provide ongoing assessment. Students will write and respond in a notebook about their books that will be passed back and forth from student and teacher. This allows both teacher and student to gain insight into the students' thinking and understanding. The goal of reading is for personal understanding and enjoyment.

## **Writing**

We write with a purpose and for an audience. It involves brainstorming, planning, rereading, and revising. The writing process takes time. Fourth graders use a writer's notebook to record ideas, observations, and memories. They keep everything they learn about writing in their folder and notebook to use as future references.

Each writing workshop begins with a mini-lesson. Students then write independently using the techniques presented to them and confer with the teacher about their writing. They write and revise using the lessons they have been taught. Some final pieces will be published and shared.

Students will be expected to complete final drafts within a given time frame. The expectations and due dates will be given at the beginning of each writing study. Everyone should have plenty of time to complete the final draft in class.

## **Spelling**

Spelling is worked on weekly and our lists are based on word studies. We sometimes work on prefixes, root words, sound or letter patterns, as well as frequently misspelled words and words students are independently working to master.

## **Math**

During math the students will be engaged on a daily basis in math instruction that introduces them to new concepts, while also building on previous knowledge from earlier grades. The students will be expected to participate in activities and games to help them master new skills. Independent practice is an important part of math and this work can sometimes be completed during class, but may also be homework.

Areas of study include, but are not limited to:

- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction of Multi-Digit Numbers
- Multiplication and Division of Multi-Digit Numbers
- Fractions and Decimals
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Basic facts are still important...keep practicing!

## **Science & Social Studies**

Science will center on earth and life science. We take a field trip to Voas in the spring to do some hands on activities with rocks and in May, we visit the Omaha Zoo, a trip that connects to learning about plant and animal adaptations.

Social Studies is comprised of learning map skills as well as history following the American Revolution with a focus on Westward Movement, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War. Our first field trip of the school year will be to Voas where we'll get to put some map skills into practice.

Together as a Student/Parent/Teacher team, we can help make the fourth grade year successful!

We look forward to a memorable year with your child!

*4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team*