

FOURTH GRADE INFORMATION PACKET

PHILOSOPHY

We believe that all students are capable of learning through the combined efforts of family, school, and community.

Flexible Seating

This year the 4th grade continues to use flexible seating. We have flower tables, triangular tables, low tables, standing tables, and various chairs. Students will discover the best option for them to achieve their learning. Students sign a contract in agreement of the seating options.

GRADE LEVEL CURRICULUM

IPad minis were given district wide to all fourth graders. A policy was given on packet pickup day. The students begin their day with a morning check-in. iPads are utilized as needed throughout the day.

<u>Grading Scale</u>	93-100 = A
	85-92 = B
	75-84 = C
	65-75 = D
	64 & below = F

Reading/Literacy

- Schoolwide Program
- Lexia Program
- Accelerated Reader
- Guided Reading groups/workshop model
- Weekly Reading Log
- Close Reading
- Reader's Notebook (binder)

This year, we will continue to use Schoolwide curriculum for both reading and writing. The curriculum revolves around small group work and focuses on learning specific reading skills by practicing individually. This individual practice is monitored through teacher observations, assessment checks for student understanding, and small group work. Per this curriculum, there is not much paperwork that students complete. Be aware that students will not have a lot of work that they will be bringing home, but are constantly

working on improving their reading comprehension and fluency through small group work and individual practice. When students are not working with the teacher, they will be working in stations. All students have a book box with reading material that they will update throughout the year.

Writing

- SchoolWide Program
- Spelling & Grammar Workbook (Jolly Phonics)
- Spelling City- online resource
- Writer's Notebook (composition book)

The students will be writing in response to literature. The purpose is to immerse writers in samples of writing that demonstrate a particular unit of study, so that they can borrow from these samples as they formulate their own writing. Students will follow the stages of the writing process: generating ideas, selecting, collecting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. There are 4 units of study: launching, fiction genre study, nonfiction genre study, and poetry. The students will also be given the opportunity to express themselves creatively in assignments. Students follow the RACE acronym for writing: **R**estate the question, **A**nswer all the parts, **C**ite text evidence, and **E**xplain.

Spelling - Tests will be given weekly. Each word list focuses on a spelling concept. Test reminders will be in the weekly newsletter (usually every Friday). Students can practice their spelling on www.spellingcity.com. Students who score 100 on the pretest or who would like the additional challenge may take all 18 weekly words for the test. Lists may also be modified to meet the individual needs of students.

Grammar – The students will work on grammar skills. These include the eight parts of speech and mechanics such as punctuation and capitalization. The Jolly Grammar program includes both the weekly spelling skill and grammar skill. A rap that the students memorize will assist them in learning all 8 parts of speech.

Mathematics- Eureka

- 4 Student workbooks:
 - Module 1 & 2
 - Module 3 & 4
 - Module 5
 - Module 6 & 7
- Manipulatives

- Dry Erase Boards
- Exit Tickets
- Zearn/Splash Math/Prodigy/Math Facts in a Flash/Freckle/Greg Tang Math games

Eureka's Common Core approach allows students to work collaboratively. Students will complete exit tickets as well as other assessments to measure their understanding of the Common Core Standards. The workbook is sent home to assist students to look back at the lesson and clarify the content. Homework help videos for the Eureka program are also found on the class weebly: lack110.weebly.com. Multiplication and Division paper fact tests will also be given 4 times per quarter to monitor their progress.

Social Sciences

- Google Classroom
- Ag in the Classroom Presentation/Illinois
- Supplementary materials may include iPad apps, projects, games, performance based activities, etc.

This year, students will be completing alternating units of Social Studies and Science. Grades will be provided at the end of each semester, rather than at the end of each quarter. In Social Studies, students will focus on Our State, Our Nation. We cover the Civic Standards, Geography Standards, Human Population, and Human Environment Interaction. There is a concentration on the state of Illinois. Test dates will be given in the Classroom Newsletter.

Science

- STEMScopes (online resource)
- Google Classroom

Various Science units will be covered throughout the year with a focus on Physical Science, Earth Science, Life Science, and STEM activities. The class will participate in hands on activities and problem solving situations while using the scientific method. Test dates will be given in the Classroom Newsletter.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

Classroom instruction may consist of whole class instruction, partner activities, or small groups. A teacher may be involved in any of these groups, not always as a leader. Our teaching styles allow collaboration among students. The workshop model focuses on modeling and practicing.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students may be assessed in the following ways:

Classroom Methods

- May be *Formative* (during learning) or *Summative* (at the end of learning to show mastery)

Variety of Styles

- Multiple choice
- Fill-in-the-blanks
- Short answer
- Teacher made or Text/Program created- may include Performance Based assessments with Rubrics, in which students create artifact to show level of mastery

State/National Methods- Norm referenced tests

- Fountas & Pinnell Reading level testing (F & P)
- STAR- Reading and Math
- IAR- Illinois Assessment of Readiness

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

Schedule

Students have received a copy of the student schedule. Students should be prepared for all classes as well as P.E., Music, Art, and Technology.

Routine

Assignment notebooks/student planner are required daily for all subject areas. The school has purchased them for all students. Assignments are written daily in the teacher's planner and it is the **student's responsibility** to **carefully** copy them down. **Remind** is an app all can join to receive text reminders for homework or any other notifications. It is a great tool to connect the home and school. Supply lists have been given district wide for all students. Most supplies were placed in a numbered supply bin for all

students. Some supplies were collected and placed in a common area for all students use.

Late Assignments/Absent Work

Homework is given for the reinforcement of the lessons. Most homework will be given in Math. Students will also be studying for tests and reading nightly for the weekly reading log. Most assignments are due the following day. If the assignment is late, a penalty will be applied for the number of days the assignment is late. This does not apply in the case of absences due to illness. This can affect their grade and you will be notified if your child has missing assignments. Students will also be rewarded monthly for turning in all assignments on time.

If your child is unable to attend school, they will receive the work upon their return to school. They will be given extra time to complete due to illness. Please let us know if you would like the work sent home ahead of time and we will do our best to accommodate. Please contact us should you have any questions. Homework Club is offered to students having difficulty completing homework independently.

Behavior- School-wide PBIS System.

Classroom implementation to monitor this system is with the “1- 2-3 Magic” by Dr. Thomas Phelan. This system is very visual and quite effective and ties in with our school-wide PBIS. All students begin each day with their numbered clothespin on a neutral “white” zone. Verbal warnings are given before any clip is moved. The first offense elicits a verbal “That’s 1” and the clothespin is moved to green. The second offense elicits a verbal “That’s a 2” and the clothespin is moved to yellow and a note is sent home requiring a student and parent signature for the warning. The third offense elicits “That’s a 3” and the clothespin is moved to red and an infraction is given. Students receive warnings before their clip is moved in an effort to change the behavior. Throughout the 1st Quarter, students will be able to move their clip back toward the white neutral zone for positive changes.

The class can also earn “class celebrations” for positive behavior. Children will also earn Mustang money daily for remaining in the white or green zones. Students will also be allowed to pick from the treasure box as rewards. There will be school wide celebrations for all students to attend. Periodically students have a “payday” and their Mustang Money is traded in for “Lack” dollars. They can choose how to spend their money with various incentives such as treats, treasure chest items, and other rewards. Class Dojo

is also used in order for students to earn points. The points are also included in their “payday”. Students enjoy having their own play money.

Parent Communication – 2 Pocket Folders

Students will receive a weekly **TEST/QUIZ** Note. This note will have the weekly tests included and placed in their pocket folder (**green plastic**). This note will also include any behavior notification of your child. Please review the weekly note over the weekend with your child. If your child receives a failing grade on a test, they may make the corrections and raise their grade to a passing “D”. Your signature is required and keeps you informed of your child’s test/quiz grades and behavior. **Please be sure your child has turned in the weekly note by Wednesday.** The note and folder only need to be returned. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In addition to the weekly **TEST/QUIZ** Note, your child will bring home a **PAPER Folder**. Graded Papers will be sent home in the paper folder **as needed**. Parents will be required to review their child’s work and return the signed folder. Any papers with a “Fix” on them should be corrected and returned to school. Please remove the papers and sign the paper attached to the folder. **This folder should also be turned in by Wednesday.** Again, please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The **Remind App** is our preferred method of contact.

At the mid-quarter of each of the four marking periods, your child will receive a PowerSchool report. As always, you can check your child’s grades on PowerSchool.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

- Review multiplication/division facts 0-12
- Signing required parent correspondence
- Promoting and encouraging good study habits
- Allowing growth towards independent study
- Reviewing nightly your child’s assignment notebook as needed
- Monitor child’s reading and signing weekly reading log (80 minutes per week)

We are delighted to be given the opportunity to teach your child! We look forward to a positive year, and with your support we can accomplish this!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lack & Mrs. Nordholt

flack@d124.org anordholt@d124.org

Please sign and return this page only with your child.

I have read the Fourth Grade Information Packet.

_____ **Parent signature**

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SAMPLE

Inside Green Folder
Weekly Test/Quiz/Behavior Report

Name _____

Date _____

Number of tests and/or quizzes: _____

Subject	Letter Grade
Math	
Reading	
English/Grammar	
Spelling	
Science	
Social Science	

Late Assignments: _____

Behavior:

#2-Yellow notes: _____

3#- Red notes/infractions _____

Parent Signature _____

Comments:

Inside Blue Folder
Paper Folder for _____

Date	# of Papers	Comments	Parent Signature

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Fourth Grade Information Packet Northwest School



Fourth Grade

Mrs. Lack & Mrs. Nordholt