August, 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to fourth grade! Please use the following information as a reference throughout the school year. More information about the curriculum will be shared during Back-to School/Take a Peak at Your Seat. We are looking forward to having your child/children in our classes and working with all of you to make the fourth grade year a successful one.

**Homeroom:** School begins at 8:45 a.m. and dismisses at 3:15 p.m. If you are bringing your child to school, please have them here to start morning activities promptly. Students will be rotating to their first class at 8:50.

**Absences/Early Dismissals:** If your child is absent from school, they should return with a note on a separate sheet of paper (not in the planner) explaining the reason for their absence. You may request work to either be sent home or picked up in the office by calling the office no later than 11:00 AM. Your child has the same number of days to make-up their work as was the duration of their absence. For example, if they miss two days of school, they have two days to make up the work.

**Change in Bus Routine:** If there is a change in your child’s afternoon dismissal procedure, please write a note on a separate sheet of paper explaining the change. If your child does not have a note, they will take their usual form of transportation.

**Birthday:** Non-edible goodies are permitted to be shared. If you have any other celebratory ideas, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher.

**Schedule:**

8:30-8:45-Homeroom
8:50-10:00-Rotation 1
10:00-10:50-Science/Social Studies/Health
10:55-11:45-Special
11:50-12:20-Lunch
12:20-12:40-REcess
12:50-2:00-Rotation 2
2:00-3:10-Rotation 3
3:10-3:30-Dismissal

**Planner:** Your child will bring home their planner, where their homework is written, every day. Please initial your child's planner each night, so we know that you have checked homework and any notes that may be included.

**Grading:** A letter grading system (A, B, C, D, E) is first used in fourth grade. Please review grades on Schoology regularly.

**Supplies:** Restock pencil cases regularly. Supplies needed are sharpened pencils, pens, post-its, highlighters, colored pencils, scissors, and glue. Binders will need to be restocked with filler paper. Independent reading book is needed daily.

**Math:** Mrs. Metzbower will be teaching your child math this year. Students will be using a hands on interactive notebook during the entire year. This interactive notebook will help your child keep math notes and resource papers in one location. This notebook and classwork can be used to help your child prepare for upcoming unit assessments. Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Classwork should remain in the binder until the end of the unit, at which time we will clean out the binder in preparation for the next unit.

**Reading:** Mrs. Walker will be teacher your child reading this year. Fourth grade is a very exciting year for readers. While we continue to learn to read, we are also now reading to learn. Our books become more complex, rich and deep, allowing for collaboration, discussion and interpretation. Students will engage with books and other written material through shared reading in a whole group, small group guided reading lessons as well as meaningful independent work. We will be working hard to respond to what we have read by writing. Each student will have an interactive notebook for reading responses which will include personal sized anchor charts for each skill, vocabulary related to that skill as well as sentence starters and exemplary responses. These anchor charts will support students as they draft their own responses and will show growth throughout the year as we circle back to each skill. A rubric will be included in the notebook so that the expectations are clear for grading. These reading response notebooks will not travel home very often. However, anytime that you would like to make an appointment after school to come in to view the notebook is welcome! Homework will be given on Monday each week and will be turned in on Friday. This packet is a spiral review that touches on all the grade level state standards throughout the year. The homework packet will include a reading passage and opportunities to respond each of four evenings. Please complete the homework as it fits into your schedule. I would ask, though, that
students read the passage at least two to three times. We are increasing our fluency through timed, repeated readings and there will be space for you to track that skill. During short weeks, we will work only on timed fluency passages based on non-fiction social studies or science topics.

**Written Language Arts:** Mrs. Boyle will be teaching grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and writing during this block. The students will alternate every week between vocabulary and spelling. We will be using Words Their Way for spelling, which works with spelling patterns. All work will be completed in their binders and may be cleaned out at the end of each week. A text book will be used for grammar and some writing lessons. The book may go home whenever needed, but it needs to be returned to school daily. Spelling or vocabulary homework will be assigned M-Th and occasionally language work will be assigned in order to prepare for an upcoming test.

**Science & Social Studies:** Most work completed in class is stored in your child’s binder. This includes graded classwork papers when applicable. The work should remain there until the end of the unit, so they will have them to review prior to taking a test or completing a culminating activity. We will clean out the binders in class. Please look through the binder periodically to help your child keep it neat and organized.

**Communication:** We will help your child in any way we are able to this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns you may write a note in the comment section of the homework planner. You may also contact us by email smetzbower@bcps.org, sboyle@bcps.org, jwalker8@bcps.org or phone the school (410-887-5947). We look forward to working with all of you and making sure your child has a successful and awesome year!

Sincerely,

Sandy Boyle
Sheri Metzbower
Jodi Walker