

4th Grade Handbook

Welcome Letter

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to 4th grade!! We are looking forward to working with and learning from you. There are three full time teachers in fourth grade this year. Your homeroom teacher is only for homeroom. You will be moving from class to class for math, science, social studies, and ILA. Mr. Angell will be teaching math, social studies, and science and Miss Martin will be teaching math and ILA, and Mrs. Keech will be teaching ILA.

Hopefully, you have been reading over the summer. Please remember to have a free reading book everyday. Free reading books should be chapter books, not magazines, catalogs, comic books, etc.

Let's have a great year.

Fourth Grade Team

Mrs. Keech

Mr. Angell

Miss Martin

Specials Schedule

Time	Subject	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10:30	Art	Keech		Martin		Angell
	V. Music		Angell	Keech	Martin	
	P.E.		Keech		Angell	Keech
	P.E.	Angell	Martin			
	Health	Martin		Angell	Keech	
	Guidance					Martin
11:00	Art	Keech		Martin		Angell
	V. Music		Angell	Keech	Martin	
	P.E.		Keech			Martin
	P.E.	Angell	Martin			
	Health	Martin		Angell	Keech	
	Guidance				Angell	Keech

General 4th grade schedule

Students will have a schedule in his or her agenda books. All 4th grade students have lunch from 12:45-1:15 PM and recess at 12:30-12:45 PM and 1:15 – 1:30 PM.

Your child brought home their individual schedules the first week of school. Please check the special schedule so your child has the appropriate attire for PE and art on the correct day.

Field Trips

- ❑ For any parent who may wish to be a chaperone this year, please remember to attend a mandatory training session for all volunteers. There will be volunteer training immediately and after all back to school nights. Check the monthly Sandymount Chipmunk Chatter for other volunteer training dates. Training may not be available immediately before a field trip; therefore, if training hasn't been completed, that parent may not chaperone the field trip.

Celebrations

- ❑ Birthdays – If parents would like to send in a birthday treat with their son or daughter, this is fine. Please keep in mind the treat needs to be shared only at lunch.
- ❑ Mr. Yount has planned many guidance activities throughout the course of the year.

Discipline

*See Sandymount Elementary School Student Handbook pages 15-18.

Reporting to parents

- ❑ Graded assignments will be returned to the students in Friday Folders which will be taken home on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month and returned with a parent signature by the next Monday. All graded work should remain at home unless otherwise specified.
- ❑ Interims will be sent home in the Friday Folders around the midpoint of each quarter. On occasion, this may not be the 2nd or 4th Friday, but the interim will be more informative if the parents can see the work reflected in the grades. The interims must be signed and returned.

Subject information

- ❑ This year in ILA we will be reading short fiction and non-fiction texts. We will focus on comprehension strategies and higher level thinking skills, such as inferencing, comparing/contrasting, and synthesizing information. In writing, we will focus on the Six Traits in a Writer's Workshop format. These include ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, voice, and conventions. Each trait will be taught and applied to everyday class work as well as longer written pieces.
- ❑ In math, the students are expected to have the basic addition and subtraction facts **memorized**. By the end of grade 4, it is expected that students will have **memorized** all multiplication facts up to and including the 10's table, as well as, division facts with divisors to 10 and quotients to 10. We will be focusing on problem solving, reasoning,

and communicating mathematically. The following concepts will be taught this year: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers and decimals, measurement, geometry, probability, and fractions.

- ❑ Social studies will be studied for two quarters and science will be studied for two quarters. The social studies curriculum is literature based and will include the following units: Map Skills, Native Americans, Explorers, and Life in Colonial Maryland. The science curriculum emphasizes the investigative process. The following units will be covered: Chemistry; Adaptations' Force and Motion; Electricity, Magnetism, Light, and Sound and Water Quality.

Helpful Hints

- ❑ We can be contacted by phone, note, or e-mail. Our e-mail address to contact *any* 4th grade teacher is: fourthgrade05@hotmail.com. E-mail is checked daily before the students arrive and usually when the students are at specials and/or at the end of the day.
- ❑ When your child is absent, call the school office to arrange for work to be gathered and picked up or sent home with another student. Please make sure to call by 9:00 AM so that we have ample time to gather the work. The **student** is responsible for making up missed work and **turning in completed work** to the appropriate teacher. The teacher will **not** be responsible for collecting absent work.
- ❑ Neat and legible writing is required. Cursive writing is preferred. Any written work that is turned in and not legible will be returned to the student. The student will rewrite the assignment and turn it in again.
- ❑ No toys should be brought to school unless for special activities. Toys will be confiscated and held by the teacher. It will be the parents' responsibility to make arrangements to pick up the toy(s). Also, portable CD players, MP3 players, PSPs etc. should not be brought to school. If they are brought to school because they are allowed on the bus, the devices must remain in the student's book bag until they leave the building.
- ❑ When the weather permits, we will have recess outside. If it is inclement weather, the students will be given time before lunch to play quiet board games, read, etc. Please help your child have a small game or activity in their locker at all times since the weather is so unpredictable.
- ❑ Students must have book bags and lunchboxes that fit in their locker due to the limited storage space in the classrooms. Having extra bags around the room presents a safety hazard to all students. Please check with your child. Book bags with wheels are not allowed since they do not fit in the lockers.

Homework

- ❑ All students are required to copy their homework assignments during each class in their assignment notebook. It is the **students' responsibility** to copy assignments accurately, take home the necessary materials, and return completed work on time. If this becomes an issue for a student, a parent conference will be requested or a phone call will be made. If during the conference it is decided that a teacher needs to assist a student and sign the homework book on a daily basis, an 'N' will appear on the report card under the "Work and Social Habits" in the "Takes Responsibility for Learning" category.
- ❑ Fourth grade students should have approximately 40 minutes of homework each night. If your child spends significantly more time on homework, please monitor him or her to make sure time is spent wisely. Also, please contact a fourth grade teacher to discuss any concerns about your child's homework.
- ❑ **Students** need to be responsible for their assignments. Late assignments do not allow the student to learn from mistakes and take away a learning opportunity when the work is discussed in class.

Volunteers

- ❑ We would love to have volunteers to assist us in a variety of tasks. We could use volunteers to run off papers, file, complete book orders, and work with students. Volunteer sign-up will occur at all back to school nights. A volunteer schedule will be made shortly thereafter.

Instrumental Music

- ❑ Instrumental music will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Friday afternoons.
- ❑ Students are encouraged to get a responsible buddy to gather work and notes when they miss class. Teachers will assist students with the material taught, but only if the student approaches the teacher for assistance at an appropriate time. Routines and responsibilities will be reviewed with the students during the first weeks of school. For the first quarter, teachers will try to remind students to ask for assistance when they miss time in class.

Vocal Music

Students in grades 1-5 receive Vocal Music instruction from a music specialist for 60 minutes each week. All grades follow the CCPS Vocal Music Essential Curriculum, and use the *Share the Music* textbook. In addition, there are numerous performing opportunities available throughout the elementary years.

- Continue all of the previous grades' skills, including the recorder
- Read increasingly difficult rhythms and major and minor modes
- Learn about different cultures through folk songs

- Participate in Spring Chorus

PE

Students in grades 1-5 will receive physical education instruction from the specialist for a total of 90 minutes each week. These classes are divided as follows: Grades 1 & 2 three 30-minute classes and Grades 3 thru 5 one 60-minute class and one 30-minute class. All grades will follow the CCPS Physical Education Essential Curriculum, which is in the process of being updated.

The students will have many opportunities to use their physical skills in a wide variety of activities and sports related games.

Health

Students in grades 1-5 will receive instruction in Health from physical education/health teachers for a total of 60 minutes per week. Grades 1 and 2 have two 30-minute classes and grades 3 thru 5 have one 60-minute class. All classes follow the CCPS Health curriculum and a newly adopted series called *Totally Awesome Health* by Meeks and Heit. In addition, Grades 2 and 4 will have special activities provided by Youth Intervention Officers for Carroll County Public Schools. The major Units of study include Personal Wellness, Nutrition, Personal Safety, Body System, and Substance Abuse. We will also try to coordinate some curriculum activities with Mr. Yount's Guidance programs.

Media

The goal of the media program is for students to become independent users of the library and of information. Students receive instruction in research and library skills, media literacy, media production, and reading. This instruction is integrated with classroom instruction as much as possible. Fourth grade students visit the media center every other week with their ILA class to check out books.

The following are some of the skills highlighted for Fourth Grade:

- Continue all previous grades' skills
- Locate materials using the Text OPAC to search by keyword
- Log onto the Novell Network
- Save and retrieve computer files
- Use primary and secondary sources for research
- Create PowerPoint presentations and word processing documents

Art

Students in fourth grade have Art for one hour each week. Students experiment with a variety of materials such as clay, tempera paint, watercolor, oil pastel, fabric, yarn, construction paper, calligraphy pens, and charcoal. We get messy in the art room. Please make sure your child has

an old shirt to protect his/her school clothes. Through the use of books, posters, and technology fourth graders study several artists as well as other cultures.

Students in art will:

- Develop an awareness and an understanding of how visual art is created.
- Develop an awareness that art is an integrated part of our environment.
- Develop an understanding that art is a reflection of man's presence throughout history.
- Develop skills that will be used in the production of art.
- Develop skills and sensitivity to apply aesthetic criteria to works of art.
- Demonstrate how visual art relates to other arts and subject areas.

School Supplies

- You should have received a list of supplies with last year's report card or when you registered your child. **Please review that list frequently** with your child to make sure he or she has the needed supplies. We request that students have only wooden pencils, not the mechanical kind, as it becomes a play toy and a disruption. In addition, individual pencil sharpeners and miniature staplers are not permitted in school.

Carroll County Public Schools ADA Compliance Statement

The Board of Education of Carroll County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or provision of services, programs or activities. Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities, (410) 751-3177. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Office of Community and Media Relations at (410) 751-3020, TTY (410) 751-3034, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157 at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.