

Welcome to 4th Grade

Dear Parents,

We hope this information packet will assist you in the coming year. Our goal is to make the transition to Fourth Grade as smooth as possible for both you and your child.

Enclosed is information we ask that you read with your Please print and return the necessary forms by Friday.

In closing, this first short week of school, we will conduct reading and math assessments and get to know each other. The following week (8/25/14), we will begin sending home a weekly newsletter. However, we will get into more detail on **Curriculum night which is August 27, 2014**. Therefore, if you have any questions, please write them down and present them on that night. We encourage each of you to attend as we will discuss in detail how each classroom will operate.

Thank you in advance for making this a great year!

Kind regards,
The Fourth Grade Team

Points to Know

Arrival: Students are to arrive on time. They are allowed to enter the classroom at 7:45 a.m. and not before. If your child arrives before 7:45 a.m. they are to report to the gym. At 8:00 a.m. students are considered tardy. Please be certain that students arrive on time, as being late to class may put the child behind on a morning activity. This in turn may cause anxiety, which can be stressful.

Drop Off: Our goal is for our students to be as independent as possible. As they prepare to transition for middle school, we kindly ask that parents drop your child off and enjoy your day. While you are encouraged to join us for assembly, on non-assembly days, we ask that you allow your child to walk to class themselves. Although we (teachers) enjoy an occasional hug, smile and encouraging word for the day, we are eager to see your child exert their independence during this year.

Dress code: Please refer to the dress code in the student handbook. The boys are expected to have their shirts tucked in and **belt** worn each day. The girls should also be in proper uniform (refer to the handbook) and avoid *colorful socks and shoes*. Children who look good perform well! 😊

Homework: Please refer to the weekly newsletter; however each teacher will explain their homework policy in detail on curriculum night.

Classroom Management/Behavior: Students are expected to uphold the THRS honor code however; each teacher will discuss their expectations further on curriculum night.

Carpool: Students who are not signed up for an after school commitment will be in carpool. If students are not picked up in

carpool they will be sent to extended care. Also, if you are unable to pick your child up from carpool and have arranged for alternative transportation, please email your child's homeroom teacher, call or send a written request. If you send someone other than immediate family, please inform them that they must have the proper identification (driver's license).

Field trips: We are scheduled to participate in field trips this year and parents are encouraged to chaperone. Chaperones will be notified in time enough to make the necessary arrangements for the day.

Conferences: THRS has scheduled parent/teacher conference dates. However, we welcome scheduled conferences throughout the year to discuss your child's progress. Each teacher has a planning period so check with them to see when you are able to be seen. In an effort to provide you with thorough and detailed information, we kindly ask that you refrain from "quick" after school hall conferences and morning drop off conferences as we would like to address your concerns in private and with accuracy. However, if you just have a question about an assignment that was not clarified in the weekly newsletter, please feel free to call or email and you will receive a response within 24hrs.

Communication: Great communication is imperative for a successful school experience. Therefore, we will communicate through jupitergrades, student agenda's, email and phone calls.

The curriculum night agenda will include a brief review of the information above and the following topics in detail:

- a. Grades
- b. Homework
- c. Discipline
- d. parent/teacher conferences
- e. answer any questions

4th Grade Social Changes: What To Expect

Socializing with friends and getting involved in activities outside of school are a big part of being a 4th grader.

by Patti Ghezzi



Welcome to the start of the tween years, the bridge between child and teenager formerly known as...well...childhood.

Kids who are not quite teenagers used to be called preteens, but now that phase of being acutely aware of peers and pop culture starts even younger. Teachers and parents say it can begin as early as 4th grade for some children, while others hold dearly to childhood.

For kids who move on to the tween phase, the year is marked by a greater interest in fashion, pop music, and celebrities, all of which can be a huge distraction to schoolwork. The good news is that kids still possess a natural curiosity and love of learning. "They have an irrepressible enthusiasm for learning," according to the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools' 4th grade curriculum guide. "They are comfortable working independently or with others in small groups."

The key is to find ways to make learning engaging and fun. For example, 4th graders are inherently social, so having them

work in pairs or groups may hold more appeal than working by themselves. The challenge, of course, is getting them to work and not just gab.

Boys and Girls

This is the year when curiosity about the opposite sex may reach fever pitch. "Fourth grade is the time when students usually begin to become acutely aware of boy-girl differences and to experience very strong feelings toward those they like and those they dislike," according to the Laboratory Schools' guide. Children are also aware of rules and fairness and preoccupied with friendships and peer groups.

Parents can help navigate these choppy waters by being willing to listen and to show an interest in their child's social life while gently nudging the child toward educational pursuits. Some kids may need more structure in the evenings, with a strict time designated for homework followed by a short period allowed for talking on the phone.

Children need opportunities to mix with the opposite sex so they can learn to negotiate with kids who may once have been close buddies but now seem very different. A well-run 4th grade classroom will allow for these types of interactions. At home, parents can provide supervised opportunities for unstructured play and socializing.

Extracurricular Activities Galore

Students start gravitating toward their preferred activities in 4th grade. Some choose a sport, others a creative pursuit like music. Some want to do everything. Others will have trouble finding even a single activity that interests them.

Some kids thrive in the competitive environment of team sports, but for others it's too stressful. Some will choose an

activity just because her friends are doing it, while others will crave individuality and seek out a more obscure endeavor.

It is the parents' role to decide how many activities their child can handle and to make sure the child's life doesn't become overscheduled and chaotic. Activities offer a great opportunity for a supervised social outlet, and they allow kids to blossom in areas outside the classroom. Too many activities can lead to burnout, however.

Kids at this age are old enough to understand logistical constraints. Some activities will be impractical because of the distance parents must drive, the time commitment involved, or the level of expense required. Most communities offer an abundance of opportunities for socializing outside of school, making it possible for every child to find something. Scouts are one widely available low-cost option.

If you're considering being a leader in an activity, talk to your child. He may welcome your involvement, or he may need time to socialize without Mom and Dad close by.

Some children will not want to participate in activities. Help your child find a creative outlet as well as a way to burn off excess energy, whether it's hitting the playground after school with a friend or spending an afternoon painting.

Family Time

With high expectations at school, an increasingly demanding social life, and the pull of extracurricular activities, it may be harder than ever to schedule family time. But children of this age still need time with their parents even if they don't realize it. They need a chance to talk about their day, their life, their worries—though they may well reply “Nothing” when you ask them what's new.

Fourth grade is the year you may find yourself investing in a color-coded calendar to make sure nothing falls through the cracks. But however hectic life gets, consider setting aside time to hang out as a family and—as a tween would say—just chill.

Please return the following two forms, only

Room Parent Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Child's name: _____

1. Are you available to help us this year?

Yes

no

2. Are you able to be the "lead" room mom or would you prefer to assist?

Lead

assist

We would like to thank you in advance for your time and effort to help make this a wonderful year for the children. We look forward to working with each of you and appreciate any help. Once all forms are returned, you will be contacted concerning our first meeting.

Kind regards,
The Fourth Grade Team

Getting to Know You

Child's name: _____

List your child's academic and social strengths:

A.

B.

C.

List areas in which your child needs improvement.

A.

B.

C.

List your child's extracurricular activities.

A.

B.

C.

*Use the back of this paper (if necessary) to tell us anything else you think we need to know to help us bond with your child. 😊