

MSA Guide to Fourth Grade

1. Grades:

- ❖ Students will be graded in 4 categories for **math, reading, and writing**: Homework 10%, Classwork 20%, Quizzes 25%, Tests 45%.
- ❖ Students will be graded in 3 categories for **science and social studies**: Participation 15%, Assignments 35%, Tests 50%.
- ❖ Most tests are on Fridays, except for social studies and science.
- ❖ Students will receive all graded work for the week on Fridays.
- ❖ Grades for the week will be entered on Parent Portal on Fridays.
- ❖ Please check your child's progress regularly so there are no surprises!

2. Homework:

- ❖ Homework will be assigned and turned in weekly.
- ❖ Students will receive a Homework Packet Cover Sheet ("The CS") each Monday and due the following Monday.
- ❖ All homework should be done NEATLY on notebook paper and stapled behind the CS in order.
- ❖ The students will have 7 days to do 4 days of homework, so the due date is firm!! No exceptions!! They may return it early!
- ❖ Students should be working on homework independently, with parents checking it over and then signing the CS. (Only help children if they're stuck! Build independence!)

3. Forms, Money, Other:

- ❖ Anytime you send a form, money, permission slip, box tops, etc. to school, please make sure it is in **an envelope or baggie with your child's name and room number**. (This is a favor to the office. Please help make their lives easier so they don't have to search to figure out who the money/form/etc. belongs to.)

4. Weekly Reading Log:

- ❖ The reading log is included on the CS.
- ❖ Students should read 4 times a week for at least 20 minutes and record it on the reading log.
- ❖ Students can read anything they like for this!

5. Spelling/Vocab:

- ❖ Students will receive spelling words each week, along with vocabulary words, which will all be found on the CS. The structure may vary throughout the year.
- ❖ There will be a spelling and vocab test each Friday.
- ❖ There will be at least one assignment in the Homework Packet for spelling/vocab each week.

6. Speaking & Listening Grades:

- ❖ Speaking and Listening will be scored bi-weekly using a rubric.
- ❖ Parents will initial the rubric when it comes home and send it back to school.
- ❖ These are SO hard to keep track of for the kids! There will be a consequence of a few minutes off choice time if they don't have it.

7. Recess, Choice Time & Toys:

- ❖ Recess will be outside each day, weather permitting. Make sure your child is dressed accordingly.
- ❖ Choice Time is a privilege that children earn all week, and will happen every Friday.
- ❖ Children may bring toys and games for recess and choice time at their own risk. Teachers are not responsible for lost, broken, or stolen items.
- ❖ Some fun school supplies (ex. Hamburger erasers, troll pencil tops, etc.) are too "toy like" for school and cause distractions. Please leave at home.
- ❖ If a child has a toy or game out *during class time*, the teacher will take it until the end of the school year. No exceptions.

8. Parties, Celebrations & Snacks:

- ❖ Intermediate grades do not allow birthday parties in the classroom. Students may not bring treats for their birthday.
- ❖ Per CPS policy, "junk food" treats will be allowed only 2 days during the school year. For fourth grade, those days will be Halloween and the MSA School Picnic. There are no exceptions.
- ❖ Other holiday/celebration treats will adhere to the CPS Healthy Snack list.

9. Parking:

- ❖ Please be aware that the parking lot will be for staff only, due to limited spaces. Please plan accordingly.

10. Curriculum Materials & Books:

- ❖ Math - Singapore Math Series Textbooks and Workbooks
- ❖ Reading - Novel Units tied to reading skills & Vocabulary, as well as selected & leveled texts
- ❖ Language Arts - English Textbook
- ❖ Social Studies - Our Country and its Regions Textbook
- ❖ Science - new NGSS aligned textbook/workbook combo

11. Parent Volunteers:

- ❖ Please sign up to be a Parent Volunteer as soon as possible! You must be registered to volunteer in the classroom, on field trips, with school events, etc.
- ❖ If you became a volunteer during the 2018-2019 school year, please e-mail Mr. O'Connell to express your interest in being a volunteer again.
- ❖ You can begin the process if you didn't last year by taking your license to the office.
- ❖ Level 2 Volunteers are needed for in school events and field trips where the class stays together. Level 1 Volunteers are needed for field trips where you will be in charge of a group.

Ms. Rhea & Ms. Recknagel