

# **Welcome to Fourth Grade!**

**Room 203**

**Ms. Hall**

**2017 – 2018**

**Parent Information Night  
Cloverbank Elementary**

My Parent-Teacher Conference Date & Time:

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# Our Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ART 1:53 - 2:40 p.m.	LIBRARY 1:53 - 2:40 p.m.	P.E. 1:53 - 2:40 p.m.	MUSIC 1:53 - 2:40 p.m.	P.E. 1:53 - 2:40 p.m.
(Orchestra lessons)  Orchestra 2:35 - 3:15 p.m.	(Band lessons)  Chorus 2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	  Band 2:35 - 3:15 p.m.		  Band 2:35 - 3:15 p.m.

We have 24 fourth graders in our class.  
(11 girls, 13 boys)

## Contact Information & Communication

Please feel free to contact me at any time via text or email. If you do email, please put your child's name in the subject line so I know whom it is regarding. Also, please keep in mind that during the school day it can be difficult to respond to messages (fourth grade is a busy place!), so if I don't get back to you immediately, please understand. You can also send notes in your child's take-home folder, (make sure your child knows to give it to me).

Cloverbank Elementary School: (716) 926-1760, ex. 6203  
Email Address: Ms. Hall [whall@frontiercsd.org](mailto:whall@frontiercsd.org)

## Our Class Rules

★ *Be responsible, be safe, be caring, be respectful...* ★

We have five main guidelines in our classroom:

1. Follow directions quickly.
2. Raise your hand for permission to speak.
3. Raise your hand for permission to leave your seat.
4. Make smart choices!
5. Keep your dear teacher happy!

And above all, the children are encouraged to **BE KIND**. This means using kind words, keeping our bodies safe, and caring for our classroom and supplies.

## Behavior Management

We have many different behavior management systems in place in room 203, all focused on the goal of maintaining a high level of engagement with minimal distractions. Our behavior management systems address whole class and individual behaviors, recognizing good choices and establishing consequences for poor choices.

- **RAINBOW BEHAVIOR CHART**... students start their clips at “Ready to Learn” each day and move up or down the rainbow based on their choices. Students who are consistently making good choices are recognized with a star on their “Super Improver” card. Students making poor choices receive a warning and then an appropriate consequence (i.e., sitting out of free play or phone call home).
- **AGENDA ACCOUNTABILITY**... Please check the agenda daily for any notes. If your child is on yellow, orange, or red, a note will be included to explain why your child was on that color.

- **SUPER-IMPROVERS...** When students have earned 10 stars on their super-improver cards, they may add their name to our “Super-Improvers” Wall of Fame! As they continue to earn stars, their name will move up the wall (every 10 stars is a level up). The Wall of Fame provides a place of public recognition for our students’ behavioral achievements.
- **WARM FUZZY JAR...** We work hard to earn compliments in our class! If we receive an unsolicited compliment from another teacher or adult, we add a sparkly pom-pom to a jar. Each one represents the “warm-fuzzies” we get from receiving compliments. When the jar is full, we will have a class celebration.

What are we learning about in fourth grade?  
What programs and resources will be used?

### **LITERACY BLOCK: Reading & Writing Instruction**

**ReadyGEN Literacy Curriculum:** ReadyGEN is an integrated literacy program focused on reading, writing, speaking, and listening and is designed to prepare students for college and careers. It is built on a collaborative learning model in which teachers and students work together throughout the instructional process to grow students’ understanding and expand their knowledge. Students are engaged in literary experiences with authentic, rigorous texts. The program emphasizes “close reading” and the production of writing.

- Unit 1: Becoming Researchers
- Unit 2: Interactions in Nature and Culture
- Unit 3: Exploring Impact and Effect
- Unit 4: Creating Innovative Solutions

What is the Independent Reading Level? Your child’s independent reading level is based on his/her ability to read a text

with 96% or above accuracy, fluently (smooth and well-paced), with a thorough understanding of what has been read. It is important that your child have access to texts that they can successfully read independently.

## **SPELLING**

Spelling lists will be sent home weekly and will focus on intermediate elementary level spelling patterns and commonly misspelled words. A weekly "Spelling Contract" will be sent home on Monday of each week with a variety of activities to choose from for spelling homework. Each activity is worth a set amount of points and each week students must earn 15 points for spelling homework practice. Please encourage your child to practice and study their words. Quizzes will be given every Friday.

## **MATHEMATICS**

**Math in Focus:** The Math in Focus (Singapore Math) program is based on the progression of concrete to pictorial to abstract understanding of mathematics. The program promotes visualization so the students "see" math; as a result it makes more sense to them. The goal is to not only develop basic understanding, but also the ability to apply knowledge to conventional and novel situations. Math instruction will cover the following concepts:

- Place value of whole numbers to 100,000
- Multi-digit multiplication and long division
- Fractions and mixed numbers
- Tables and line graphs
- Estimation, factors and multiples
- Decimals
- Angles, perpendicular and parallel line segments
- Squares and rectangles
- Area and perimeter

**Fact Fluency:** Students must be fluent in addition and subtraction facts to 12. Students must be fluent in multiplication and division facts to 12 by January. Online resources such as IXL will support fact fluency.

## **SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES**

- **Science:** Hands-on science units will focus on: Land and Water; Electrical Circuits; and, Plant Growth and Development.
- **Social Studies:** Instruction will focus primarily on US History from a New York state perspective (early European explorers, Native Americans, American Revolution, Erie Canal). Students will study NYS geography and resources as well as government (specifically the differentiation of local, state, and national government).

## What else do we need to know about fourth grade in Room 203?

### IT'S IMPORTANT TO STAY HEALTHY!

- **Allergies:** Please be aware that we do have peanut, tree-nut, dairy, and egg allergies in this room. As such, we will not be having snack in the classroom. Students are expected to wash hands after lunch before entering the room.
- **Health:** Please let me know of any special circumstances that come up that may affect your child's physical, emotional, or mental health (i.e. medications that may make him/her sleepy, a death in the family, etc.)
- **Illness:** It happens. We all get sick at some point. I know it can be hard to decide whether or not to keep your child home—if he/she is running a fever or is vomiting please keep them home so they can rest and recover. This also prevents illness from spreading.

- **Sleep** is very important for every child. Please be sure your child is getting plenty of rest in the evenings and is ready for the school day! They will function more productively in class with a good night sleep.
- **Water bottles**: Please send your child to school with a filled water bottle to keep at their desk. Make sure the water bottle has a cap that he/she can easily close (not a screw cap) to prevent spills.

#### IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE AT SCHOOL!

- **Attendance**: Being in school is critical to your child's success. I understand that there are times when you need to schedule appointments during the school day, but please try to keep the absences to a minimum.
- **Vacations**: Please let me know in advance if you are taking your child out of school for multiple days for a family vacation. I will do my best to prepare school work to send home with your child; however, please know that they will still be missing out on classroom experiences.

#### IT'S IMPORTANT TO STAY IN TOUCH!

- **Communication**: You can call, email, text, or write me a note! If it is something urgent, please call the office. Otherwise, send me an email.
- **Conferences**: Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled on Friday, December 8 (afternoon/ evening) and Monday, December 11 (morning/ afternoon). Face-to-face conferences can also be scheduled anytime throughout the year, on an as-needed basis.
- **Email & Text**: It's the best way to reach me. I always check email before and after school, though I am not always able to check during the school day so please understand if I don't get back to you immediately. Texting through the Remind system is equally as efficient and effective.

- **Transportation:** If you have any last minute transportation changes (i.e., need to pick your child up instead of taking the bus), you must either send a note in to the school or call the school office directly.
- **Questions:** If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask! Please feel free to contact me at anytime for any questions or concerns you may have.

## WE'RE TRYING HARD TO BE ORGANIZED!

(But sometimes we need help!)

- **Bookbags:** Please remind your child to check his/her bookbag every day for important notes and homework. While we are working on being organized, you never know what might end up crunched at the bottom of a bookbag!
- **Green Folders:** The green folders are the "take-home/ bring-back" folders. All important information will be transported in this folder. Please check the folder daily and send back to school each morning.
- **Agendas:** Students will write all of their homework assignments and any important reminders in their agendas daily. Please review the agenda with your child, check to make sure homework assignments have been completed, and initial the bottom of the column.

## OH YEAH... WE HAVE HOMEWORK, TESTS, & GRADES

- **Homework:** Students will have homework most weeknights. The homework should take approximately 30-40 minutes. Your child is expected to read nightly for 20 minutes (about 15 pages) in a book at their independent reading level.  
     Spelling Contract: sent home Monday and turned in on Friday  
     Math: nightly, Monday-Thursday, some weekends  
     Social Studies/ Science: TBD  
     Reading: nightly... goal of 100 minutes weekly; log goes home daily
- **Report Cards:** Report cards are given out three times a school year. These reports reflect the progress your child has



made toward Fourth Grade learning objectives. Please make sure you are registered through the District Parent Portal to access the report card online. If you would like a hard copy of your child's report card mailed to your home, you need to request it directly to the office.

- **NY State Assessments:** Fourth graders participate in NYS assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science (performance and written). The dates are listed below. The decision to have your child participate in state assessments is a family matter; you decide what is best for your child.
  - **NYS ELA Assessments:** April 11, 12, and 13, 2018
  - **NYS Math Assessments:** May 1, 2, and 3, 2018
  - **NYS Science Assessments:** end of May (performance) and June 4, 2018 (written)

#### WE LOVE CELEBRATIONS!

- **Birthdays:** We love to celebrate birthdays! Feel free to send in non-food treats for your child's birthday. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate it at the end of the school year. If you are having a birthday party at home, we can hand out the invitations if you are inviting the whole class or all the boys/ all the girls.
- **Other Class Celebrations:** We have many different events happening through the year and we would love for you to be a part of these experiences. Letters will be sent home prior to each celebration in regards to classroom volunteers or looking for party supplies. All celebrations will be held in the afternoons (after 12:00 p.m.)

Halloween Celebration: Tuesday, October 31

Christmas Celebration: Thursday, December 21

Valentine's Day Celebration: Wednesday, February 14