

The 4th Grade Team

Newsletter



Colonel John Siegfried Elementary School
Issue No. 1 - Summer 2015

Welcome to 4th Grade!

We are so excited that your child will be a part of our classes this year. They are about to embark on an adventure with us as students step into technology-based classrooms. It is our belief that what happens in our classrooms will impact your child's future. We hope your child will find our classes fun, challenging, and rewarding. This school year will be unlike others, as students will have multiple teachers as they switch classes for Math, Reading, and Science/Social Studies.

Teacher	Subject
Mrs. Bendekovits	Math
Mrs. Breidinger	Language Arts
Mrs. Gaetaniello	Language Arts
Ms. Gober	Math / Science / Social Studies
Mrs. Horvath	Math / Science / Social Studies
Mr. Mogel	Language Arts
Mr. Schaffer	Science / Social Studies

Often students and parents are somewhat nervous beginning a new grade, wondering what the expectations will be. Therefore, we would like to provide you with some information on our class expectations and management systems. Please continue reading for helpful hints to prepare your child for their 4th grade year.



Technology-Based Classrooms

This year your child may experience learning in a brand new way. Much of our instruction takes place through the use of a projector, document camera, and computer. During class we may utilize the Internet, incorporate PowerPoint presentations, Study Island, games, videos, etc. Several teachers also like to incorporate computer activities including Web 2.0 tools such as blogging, creating slideshows, videos, and digital stories as well as completing computer research when possible. In the past, students have used a variety of technology including Google Docs for writing, interactive reading journals, and creating presentations. Several examples of student work can be found at the website below. Just enter the password: **Siegfried**

<http://www.nasdschools.org/webpages/horvathj/student.cfm>

<http://www.nasdschools.org/webpages/gaetanij/index.cfm?subpage=12643>



Supplies

Below is list of suggested supplies to help equip your child with materials and tools needed for learning in 4th grade:

- 1 - Backpack
- 1 - Pencil pouch (recommended over a pencil box)
- 2 - Highlighters (lighter colors suggested: yellow, pink)
- 2 - Glue sticks
- 1 - Duo Tang 3-prong pocket folders (plastic last longer)
- 3 - 1 ½ inch binders (different colors - 3 rings / **NO Trapper Keepers**)
- 2 - Packs of dividers
- 3 - Spiral Notebooks (1 subject each)
- 1 - Scissors
- 2 - Pack of Dry Erase Markers
- 1 - Pack of #2 pencils (**Not mechanical**)
- 1 - Pack of Colored Pencils
- 2 - Red or Blue Pens
- 1 - Art Smock / Old T-shirt (labeled in a plastic Ziploc freezer bag)



** Ongoing donations of tissues and Goldfish crackers or pretzels for community snacks are welcome and appreciated.*

Note: Supplies must be replenished as needed throughout the school year.

Textbooks Online

This year students will be taught new Language Arts, Math, and Social Studies curriculums. Most textbooks now have online access including Reading, Math, and Science. We will send home a letter in the beginning of the school year with instructions for viewing textbooks online.

Class Website

A few teachers have class websites which provide instructional information, build background knowledge, extend enrichment and remedial activities, post class news, and more. While the sites seem to be continually under construction, you'll find lots of information about 4th grade including past projects, an overview of subjects, pictures, and more. Check out the websites listed below throughout the school year.

<http://www.nasdschools.org/webpages/horvathj>

<http://www.nasdschools.org/webpages/gaetanij>



Remind 101

Some teachers may also use *Remind 101*, which allows parents and students to sign up for email or text messages regarding classroom reminders, homework, etc. If your child's teachers use this option, they will provide sign up information in the beginning of the school year.



Snacks & Water Bottles

Clear plastic water bottles are permitted but must be kept in homeroom classes. Also, water bottles must be taken home daily and washed. Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack such as apples, bananas, pretzels, and crackers to help keep them energized throughout the day. Please keep in mind that having these items in school is a privilege, which may be revoked if necessary.

Birthdays



If you would like, you may send in a treat to celebrate your child's birthday. We request you notify the homeroom teacher at least 1 day in advance. Please refer to the *Healthy Eating Guidelines* on the school district website for acceptable pre-packaged treats or snacks. You may also want to consider non-food items such as pencils, erasers, markers, highlighters, post-it notes, etc.

Book Clubs

Book club orders may be sent home on a monthly basis. If you would like to order books for your child, please make *checks* payable to *Scholastic Books*. Cash is not recommended. You may also order online at www.scholastic.com using the class activation code provided by your homeroom teacher.



Independent Reading Book

Reading is encouraged throughout the day. Students **MUST** have a book available at all times for silent reading. Incentives for independent reading may be provided throughout the year.

STAR Folders & Assignment Books

Your child will receive an **orange STAR Folder** along with an **assignment book**. It is important to monitor your child's accurate recording of daily assignments, tests, quizzes, projects, special events, and teacher comments in their STAR Folder. All assignments and class news will be provided in class both orally and written on the board.

Also, students will receive a weekly S.T.A.R. Behavior Communication Report to allow for school-to-home communication. Teachers will track any missed homework and falling star behaviors received if students are not demonstrating expected behaviors. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for details on the school rules and discipline policy. In order to ensure success, ***please sign your child's assignment book & S.T.A.R. Behavior Communication Report each week. Assignment books & S.T.A.R. Behavior Communication Reports will be checked every Monday for parent signatures.*** Please keep in mind it is the ***student's responsibility*** to make sure the assignment book is signed.

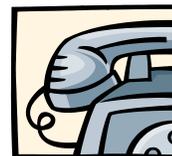
Meet the Teacher Night

We look forward to speaking with you at Back to School Night on **Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.** By respectfully working together, we can ensure your child's successful adventure in 4th grade.



Contacting the Teacher

Parent-teacher communication and partnership is important to a successful learning experience for your child. If you need to contact us, we can most often be reached by **phone** (610) 262-6430 between 8:10 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. and 3:05 P.M. - 3:35 P.M. You may also leave us a voice mail message, and we will return your call within 24 hours or as soon as possible. Please be sure to contact the office directly with any changes in your child's dismissal as there are times when it is not possible for us to check email until after school.



See You Soon!

Enjoy the rest of your summer. We look forward to meeting your child on **Monday, August 31, 2015.**

Mission Statement

Northampton Area School District is dedicated to educating and developing responsible citizens, who learn from the past, listen to the present, and lead our future.

Learn, Listen, and Lead.