

Curriculum Information 2017-2018



4th Grade Schedule

7:55-8:00	Announcements
8:00-10:20	Block 1 (Homeroom)
10:20-10:35	Break
10:40-1:00	Block 2 (Switch Class)
1:05-1:35	Lunch
1:35-2:05	Recess
2:10-2:55	Specials
3:00	Dismissal

Fourth Grade Hunters Creek Responsibility Report

The purpose of this card is to help you monitor your responsibilities and aid your decision making as a fourth grade student. If you are meeting classroom expectations, you will not receive teacher signatures. It should also be used to guide meaningful conversations with your parents.

Please return this card every Tuesday after you and your parents have signed, reviewed, and discussed the responsibility report.

Responsibilities	8/21	8/22	8/23	8/24	8/25
Uses organizational skills					
Follows Directions					
Talks when Appropriate					
Interacts Appropriately					
Shows Respect					
Returns signed papers					
Completes Class work					
Completes Homework					

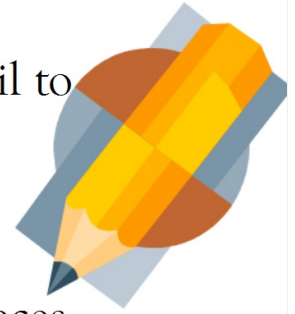
Comments: Teacher will make notes in this section about signatures. Both teacher and parent may also ask questions or make comments.

Reflection: Each Monday, student should reflect on behavior and responsibilities from previous week.

Student & Parent Signatures due 8/29: Please sign every Monday. Due date shows Tuesday that teacher will check for signatures.

Writing

- Students will have daily opportunities to put pencil to paper.
- Much of their writing will be done in a Writer's Notebook.
- Students will consume and critique a variety of pieces before authoring their own written works. There is a focus this year on writing memoirs as well as expository essays.
- Through the writing process, students will revise and edit their pieces.
- Fourth grade is also a time when students focus on the conventions of writing, including grammar, spelling, capitalization and punctuation.
- In the Spring, students will take the Writing STAAR test.





Spelling

- Spelling follows the Words Their Way program. Students learn spelling patterns to be used in their writing.
- In order to differentiate their learning, students work in groups separate from their Language Arts classes. Some students may go to different classrooms for word work each week.
- Students will receive their new pattern and words every two weeks. At school, they will complete word work to familiarize them with the rule and words. Students will also be expected to learn words and patterns that are part of the 4th Grade TEKS.
- Students will be assessed on their individualized patterns and words as well as the grade level words.

Ways to Practice Spelling




- **ABC order:** Write your words in alphabetical order.
- **Word Sort:** Sort your words by vowel sounds, patterns, syllables, etc.
- **Repetition:** Write your words 3 times each
- **Sentences:** Write a sentence for each spelling word.
- **Word Art:** Draw a picture and write your words in the picture.
- **Story time:** Write a short story using all your words.
- **Creative Letters:** Write your words by cutting out letters in an old newspaper or magazine and glue them on a paper.
- **Pyramid:** Write your words adding or subtracting one letter at a time. The result will be a pyramid shape of words.
- **Good Clean Words:** Write your words in shaving cream on a counter or some other surface that can be cleaned safely.
- **Handwriting:** Write each word 3 times in your best handwriting.
- **Cheer your words:** Pretend you are a cheerleader and call out your words!
- **Sound Words:** Use a tape recorder and record your words and their spelling. Then listen to your tape, checking to see that you spelled all the words correctly.
- **Choo-Choo Words:** Write the entire list end-to-end as one long word, using different colors of crayon or ink for different words.
- **Flashwriting:** In a darkened room, use a flashlight to draw letters in the air.
- **Timer:** Get a timer. Set it for 3 minutes. See how many times you can write your words before the timer goes off.
- **Chalk:** Write your words outside using sidewalk chalk.
- **Letters:** Write each word as many times as there are letters in the word.
- **Out loud:** Spell your words out loud 2 times to a brother or sister, mom or dad.
- **Trace Around:** Print your spelling words neatly. Take a colored pen and draw an outline around the word, closely following the shapes of the letters. Close your eyes and remember the shape.
- **Colorful Words:** Use two different color pens to write your spelling words. Use one color to write the consonants and the other for the vowels.
- **Military spelling:** Do jumping jacks, as you clap say a letter to spell your words.
- **Finger Tracing:** Use your finger to spell out each of your words one letter at a time on your Mom or Dad's back. Then it's YOUR turn to feel and spell. Try to guess the word.
- **Practice Test:** Have an adult give you a practice test.
- **Scratch n' Sniff:** Write letters with glue on paper, and then sprinkle with Jell-O. Makes a super scratch n' Sniff when tracing over the letters.
- **Computer Words:** Have your child type their spelling words ten times each on the computer. Use different colors and fonts and print it out!
- **Words-in-words:** Write your word and then write at least 2 words made from each.
- **Snap and Spell:** Snap on each letter, clap when you say the word at the end.
- **Create an activity:** Can you think of a fun

Reading

- Students will consume and critique a variety of literary genres.
- The Reading block will include small group instruction and independent reading time as well as shared reading experiences.
- During reading, students will summarize, analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions. They will also critique written works and provide evidence to support their understanding.
- Students will understand and explain author's purpose and the literary devices used by the author.
- Students are expected to keep a home reading calendar. 4th graders should try to read at least 5 Texas Bluebonnet Book Nominees.



WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
<p>If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.</p> <p><small>(Nagy and Herman, 1987.)</small></p>		
<p>WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.</p>		

Reading out loud with Your child can be...
POSITIVE ... PRODUCTIVE ... & POWERFUL.

The Set-Up

- Sit next to each other.
- Take turns reading one page at a time.
- When you read, model strong phrasing and expression.
- When your child reads, listen to the story. Let your child attempt hard words. Help explain new vocabulary.

Approach as a fellow reader.

- Try to avoid too many corrections or judgements.
- Enjoy the book as two readers.

Read a variety.

- Choose short texts like picture books, blogs, poems, and magazine articles.
- Choose a chapter book that you and your child save to only read when you are together.

Think out loud.

- Pause to think out loud.
- Show your child what goes through your mind when you read.

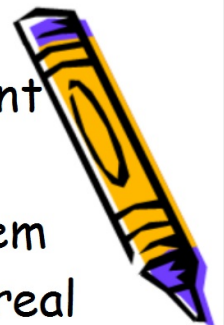
Encourage conversations.

- Pause during and after reading to discuss predictions, reactions, opinions, and feelings.



The Math Standards

4th grade math curriculum involves the different standards. Throughout the year, we will incorporate the main **Process Standards** (problem solving, choosing strategies/tools, math in the real world, communicating effectively...) into all mathematical standards. Other math standards include: **Numerical Representations & Relationships** (whole numbers/parts of a whole: place value, comparing/ordering, & estimating), **Computations and Algebraic Reasoning** (basic math facts, $+$ / $-$ / \times / \div of large numbers, functions, algorithms), **Geometry/M Measurement**, **Data Analysis/Financial Literacy**.



Our Math Routine



Introduction

Math Warm Up-

- review of skills and/or applying skills in new ways
- quick
- gets our brains ready for math class

Lesson

Review a skill or strategy OR introduce a new skill or strategy.

Independent Practice

Students independently practice learned skills.

Our Math Routine cont.



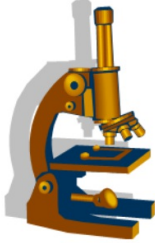
Math Workshop

Students will participate in an assigned center/station for the day based on the workshop rotation. Centers will be completed independently, with partners, and/or as a group. Centers will review concepts, allow students to practice problem solving skills, and incorporate technology in different ways.

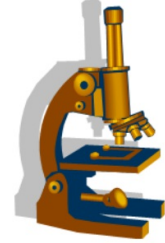
Examples: blogging, hundred's chart, logic puzzles...

Homework

Class discusses the night's homework and goes over directions.



Science



Science consists of Life Science, Earth Science, Physical Science, and Space Science. The different areas will be covered with in class discussions, different resources, and hands on experiences incorporating the scientific method.

- Students will be expected to review material on a nightly basis to be prepared for class and quizzes.
- Students have a science section in their binder. Please review **all** materials.
- To help with study skills, study guides for quizzes will be provided and at the beginning of the year, some class time will be spent going through the guide and focusing on specifics for quizzes.

Social Studies



Texas History

Using "Texas Weekly" newspapers, maps, our Interactive Social Studies notebooks and other resources, students will learn about:

- **Geography and Map Skills**
- **Texas Regions**
- **Native Americans**
- **Early Explorers**
- **Texas Revolution, Independence and Statehood**
- **Economics**

If a student's grade on a cumulative assessment is below 70, the student will have one week to prepare for a re-test which will be given during non-instructional time (to be determined by the teacher.) The re-test and failing grade will be averaged together for a new grade (up to 75.) This practice follows district grading guidelines.

Discipline

Cougar Code:

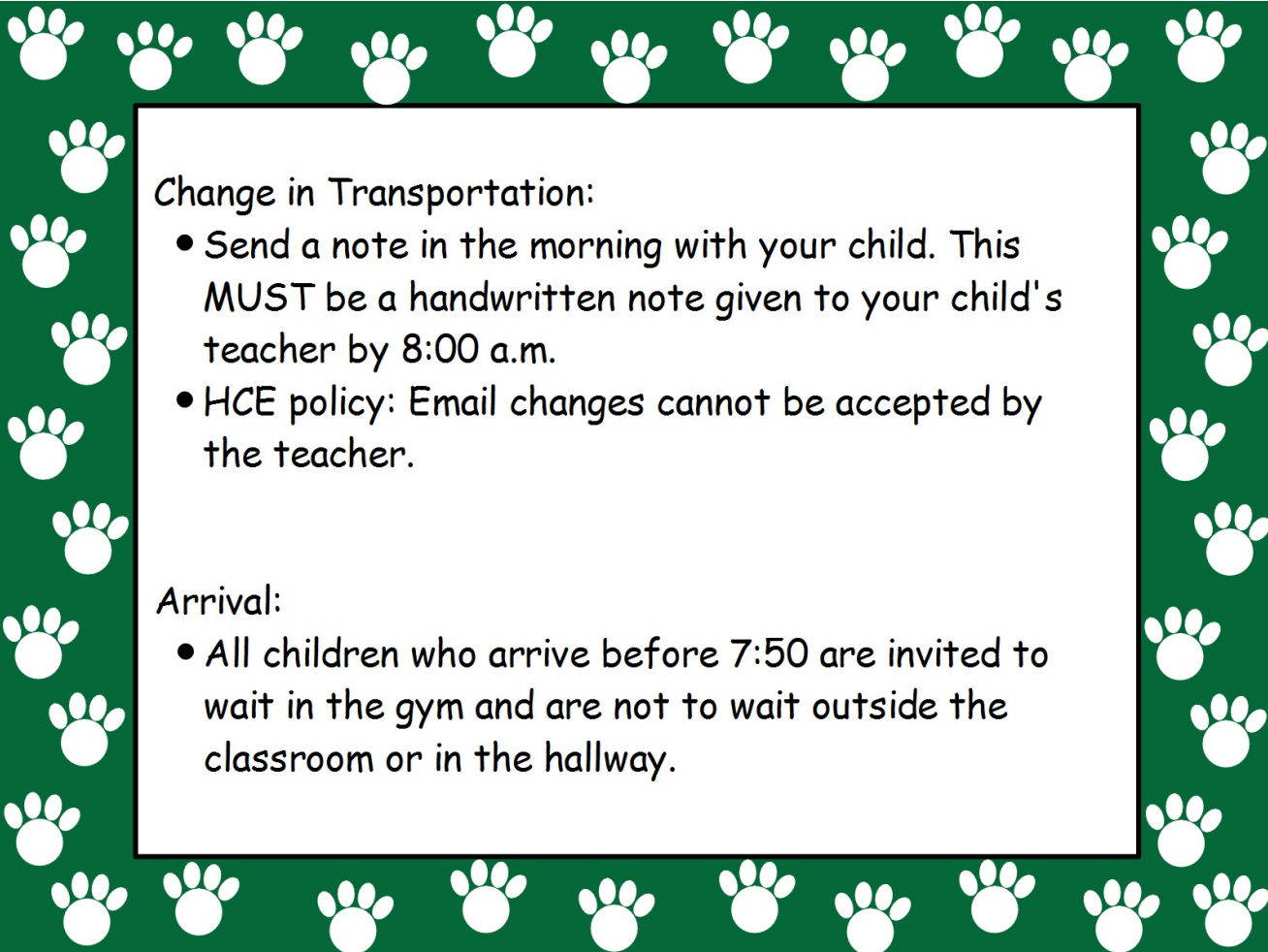
Celebrate self-control
Observe and listen attentively
Unite and encourage my classmates
Give my best effort
Actively participate
Respect myself and others
Solve my own problems

Tribes agreements:

- Mutual Respect
- Attentive Listening
- Appreciations No Put-downs
- The Right to Pass

Love and Logic

1. I will treat you with respect so that you know how to treat me.
2. Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for you or anyone else.
3. If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
4. If you are unable to solve the problem (or choose not to), I will do something.
5. What I do will depend on the person and the situation.
6. If you feel that something is unfair, you may come to me at an appropriate time and say, "I'm not sure this is fair," and we will talk.



Change in Transportation:

- Send a note in the morning with your child. This **MUST** be a handwritten note given to your child's teacher by 8:00 a.m.
- HCE policy: Email changes cannot be accepted by the teacher.

Arrival:

- All children who arrive before 7:50 are invited to wait in the gym and are not to wait outside the classroom or in the hallway.



Snacks:

- Please send your child to school with a healthy snack!
- Be respectful of others' food allergies
- Are "snacks," NOT "full meals"
- Should not require utensils or excessive packaging

Homework

ASSIGNMENTS:

- The Homework Planner will be signed by parents every Monday night and is considered to be a homework assignment. Students are expected to show their parents the Planner everyday so that they can know what homework the student is responsible for or to see notes written by the teacher.
- Students are to read for at least 20 minutes everyday.
Review Words Their Way rule and complete word study, as assigned.
- Math Facts are to be practiced every night for approximately 5-10 minutes. Students will be responsible for knowing their math facts for all four operations (+, -, x, ÷).
- Daily review of concepts in Science and Social Studies for approximately 15-20 minutes
- Studying for quizzes
- Students are expected to complete all homework assignments.
- Teachers will articulate and carefully plan homework in partnership with other teachers both within and outside of the teacher's subject area.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

A strong school-home partnership has a positive impact on student success. As a result, the following outlines the stakeholder roles and the responsibilities to ensure student success:

Students shall be responsible for:

- Completing and turning in all assignments on time, and to make sure their name is on all pages.
- Following all directions for the homework assignments whether the directions are on the page, written in the Planner, or verbally explained by the teacher. It is also the student's responsibility to ensure that they clearly understand the homework assigned, including assignments and expectations, and requesting clarifications or assistance from the teacher when homework assignments and/or expectations are not clear. Students will ask the teacher for clarification of an assignment before leaving class that day.
- Placing all of their homework in the Homework Folder and they must also make sure to take home everything needed to complete assignments by putting everything in their backpack.
- Managing time and materials to complete any assigned homework.

The family shall be encouraged to:

- Provide an environment for successful completion of assigned homework;
- Provide encouragement and support for successful completion of assigned homework without doing the homework for their child; and



Thank you!