

Dear Parents,

Before the school year gets under way, I would like to welcome your child to the fourth grade. I am dedicated to making this a busy and productive year for all of the students. I will be communicating with you throughout the year concerning classroom plans, your child's progress, school events, and other activities as they arise.

The following is a list of information that will be useful throughout the fourth grade year.

THE RULE:

You can do anything you want in this class, provided it doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.

IF A "PROBLEM" OCCURS:

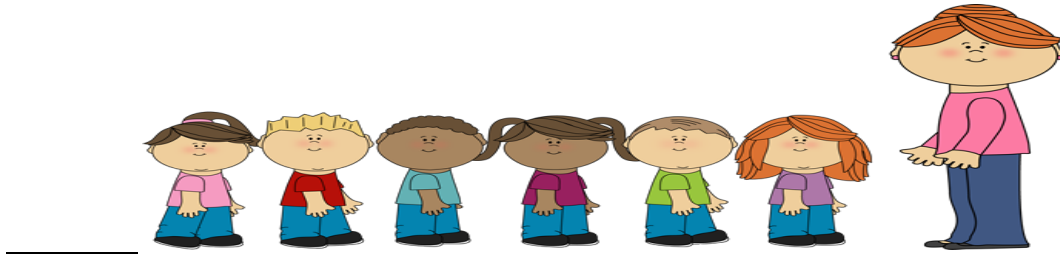
- 1. I will show empathy.*
- 1. I will give an implied message that says, "You are so capable of thinking for yourself-so powerful, so thoughtful, so intelligent-that I don't have to tell you what to do."*
- 1. If the child is having difficulty thinking of a solution, I will get permission to share alternatives.*
- 1. The child is encouraged to look at the consequences of each possible solution.*
- 2. The child decides to solve or not to solve the problem. (I believe that when a child is given a full range of choices from bad to good, he or she will invariably choose a good one. He or she will act responsible. Raising responsible children is our greatest objective as teachers and parents. They learn responsibility as we allow them to make decisions and to live with the consequences.*

SCHOOL DAYS

Students who must arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. must report to the cafeteria until that time. Teachers and other school personnel do not arrive before 7:40 a.m. and cannot supervise your child on the playground or in the hallway or classroom, etc.

DISMISSAL

School hours are from 7:50 – 3:30. If your child is sick or is going to be late for school, please let me know ASAP. We begin math immediately at the 7:50 bell. It is imperative that your child is here on time every morning so he/she doesn't lose out on quality learning.



LUNCH

Student's lunchtime is 11:23 – 11:55. Outside food is not permitted. You are welcome to join your child for lunch any time. Please let me know in advance so we can let the cafeteria know.

REMINDER BINDER

Each student is receiving a Muenster Elementary "Reminder Binder". This notebook will serve many purposes—homework assignments, test dates, teacher notes, and other items of special interest. If you have concerns or questions, please use the spiral to notify me. (This is a sure way to make sure I see the notes.)

If time permits, each Friday, students will be required to copy down all the homework given for the next week. Please check over all assignments and sign upon child's completion of homework.

*******The Reminder Binder is to go home and come back to school signed every day without exception. Signing a week in advance is not advisable. PLEASE NO INITIALS.*******

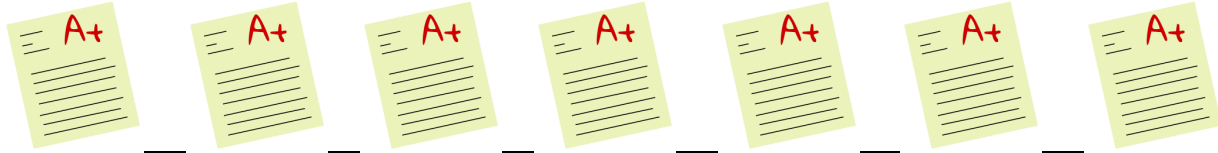
GRADED PAPERS

On Fridays, your child's work will be sent home for you to look over. This will keep you informed of their daily work and grades.

*Every third week of a six week period, your child will receive a progress report showing the average of their three weeks grades. You are asked to sign this report and return it also. If I see your child is struggling before this time, I will contact you as soon as possible. **AGAIN, NO INITIALS!!!!!!***

HANDWRITING

The neatness and legibility of your child's handwriting is very important. It reflects the pride taken in completing a task and how your child feels about himself or herself. Therefore, any written response will be marked incorrect if it is illegible. The students learned cursive handwriting in the third grade so I will expect them to write in cursive in the fourth, though not exclusively. We will also be building on the cursive writing this year!



AWARD ASSEMBLIES

We will have an awards assembly at the end of every six weeks. This will be on the following week when we give out the reports cards. The students will be awarded for A and B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, 110%, Good Character Award, and a special award noted as the "Principal's Award". This award goes to one student per class. We will contact you if your child receives this particular award so you can try to be there!

WEEKLY SOCIAL STUDENTS PROJECT

The fourth grade students will have a social studies project due every Friday. Each week the students will research a new country we have posted in the room and fill out all necessary information about it. All information is the same each week except for the interesting fact.

Information includes:

Country:

Continent:

Capital:

Interesting fact: (This part will change depending on the country. This part must be written in paragraph form)

Picture of the country's flag: (Colored with map colors)

Picture of interesting fact:

Video of interesting fact:

We will begin each country on Monday during class. This will be done using Google Classroom. Grading will consist of correct information, correct flag, spelling, punctuation, and neatness. The project will automatically be saved into their Google Drive and will then be turned in every Friday using internet. Students will be learning about the world we live in and using technology at the same time. If the project is not completed on Monday in class, students will be responsible on their own time either in school using our Chromebooks or at home using any digital device.



$$5 \div 2 \quad 3 \frac{3}{4}$$
$$14^8 \quad \sqrt{9}$$
$$3.14 \quad 300,000$$

MATH ASSIGNMENTS

1. *Math Homework* – your child will have daily math homework if not completed at school. Please check over your child's homework nightly. The students will earn a ticket for every 100%. By checking their work, you can help your child achieve this, and at the same time, help them with something they may have missed in class. Also, each student must correct every missed homework problem before beginning their next problem set. This ensures us that the student understands the problem and gives the students the opportunity to not make the same mistakes again.
2. *Math Tests* – Students will be tested after each topic and also given a comprehensive test after every 4 topics. Students should be making at least an 80% on these tests since they are doing and correcting all homework lessons.
3. *Timed fact tests* – Students are given a daily timed test based on multiplication and division. Students are not provided with flashcards from the math publishers at the 4th grade level. We will be using our own class set to study a few minutes each day. The students are encouraged to use their own set at home in order for them to become better at knowing their facts. You may purchase fact cards at Wal-Mart at a very low price. We urge the students to know their facts like they "know their name". The grades on their timed test should be at least an 85%. This shows average knowledge. If you notice your child's timed test grades are lower than this; please try to practice with them.

OUTSIDE READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Fourth grade students will have a reading assignment each night for homework. They will be given a short quiz on the reading the next day. In this way we can check their reading comprehension. The reading assignment will not be long (either a chapter from a novel, or a required number of pages). You may have your child read by themselves or with you, but please allow them to do the reading. The more we read, the better readers we become. If I feel that your child is not reading at home or is having a difficult time comprehending the assignment, I will contact you by phone. Please do not hesitate to call me if you feel the same. I want your child to enjoy reading!!!!

SPELLING

Spelling lists will be sent home every Monday for you to study during the week with your child. Each day of the week, we will work on the words and the students will have some form of worksheet, etc., working on the spelling rule that follows. They should be able to finish this in class. Every Friday they will be given the test.

CONFERENCES

My conference time is 11:55 – 12:43. Appointments for a conference may be made by sending a note with your child in the spiral notebook. It is important to make an appointment rather than showing up at school, because I may be in other meetings on any given day.

HOMEWORK

Homework is important to develop your child's long term memory, provide extra practice for specific skills, and to develop responsibility. Generally speaking, your child will have homework every night. Fourth grade is a difficult and challenging transition. We try to give students time during school to work on their homework. It is the student's responsibility to get all homework turned in the day it is due.

E-MAIL

My school email address is deb.klement@muensterisd.org if you need to get in touch with me. I check my email each morning before school starts. However, I get busy during the day and do not check it once school begins, so please do not send important messages concerning your child's after school activities after 8:00 a.m. because I will not see them.

Mrs. Klement