

## Welcome to Fourth Grade 2023 - 2024

Welcome to fourth grade! We have so many wonderful and exciting lessons and field trips planned for your children. Listed below are some helpful reminders and procedures. We are looking forward to a great year of learning!

### Fourth Grade Teachers

- Mrs. Rose - Math, Religion, and Science
- Mrs. Monsour- Reading, Language Arts, and Social Studies
- Coach B and Mrs. Swenson - PE
- Mrs. Garin - Art
- Mr. Zdrava - Music
- Mrs. Kuhn - Stream
- Mrs. Lee - Technology
- Mrs. Garcia - Spanish

### Reminders and Procedures

**Communication** - Email is the best way to reach the teachers regarding questions or concerns. Each teacher will make every attempt to respond within 24-48 hours during the school day.

Mrs. Rose- [nrose@mtctampa.org](mailto:nrose@mtctampa.org)

Mrs. Monsour- [jmonsour@mtctampa.org](mailto:jmonsour@mtctampa.org)

- **MTC Website** - Parents can access any time: [www.mtctampa.org](http://www.mtctampa.org)
- **Educator Pages** – Assignments and other important information may be found on the 4<sup>th</sup> grade website page. (MTC Website/parents/homework/grade 4) The parents link is password protected: mtccrusaders. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade page is simply a guide for both 4A and 4B classrooms. Assignments/Assessments could vary based on student needs. **Check your child's planner daily for the most up to date assignments.**
- **Friday Folders** - Each week's graded classwork and assessments will be sent home in the Friday Folder along with any pertinent information from the school office.
- **Student Planner** - Your child's planner is always the best source of homework information. Homework is posted on the board daily and children are expected to write their homework in their planner during morning homeroom.
- **Homework** - Homework is typically assigned Monday-Thursday evenings.
- **PE Class** - Fourth grade students have PE classes on Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Students should bring their PE uniform in their MTC duffle bag.
- **Uniform Policy** - Please be aware of the school uniform policy and have your child adhere to that policy. Students in violation of the uniform policy will be given a uniform violation notice and this will be noted on RenWeb.

- **Water Bottles** - Students may keep water bottles in their cubbies during the school day.
- **Grades** - Student grades are updated on RenWeb at least once per week and parents can access grades at any time.
- **Progress Reports** - Emailed to parents halfway through each trimester.
- **Report Cards** - Emailed to parents at the end of every trimester.
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** - Two scheduled conference days per year.
- **School Newsletter** - Emailed every Friday and can be accessed by parents at any time.
- **School Liturgy** - The school liturgy is celebrated each Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m. and students are welcome to sit with their parents during Mass. There are a few instances when Mass is celebrated on different days of the week and this information is communicated via the MTC website.
- **Allergies** - Please make the office aware if your child has any allergies.
- **Birthdays** - Your child may bring a treat to share with the class on his/her birthday. Birthday treats must be store bought and ingredients must be listed. Birthday treats can be dropped off in the school office and are typically distributed during lunch. Please send treats that do not need to be cut and can be served with ease. Be mindful that we have some students with severe peanut allergies.
- **Field Trips** – The following field trips are tentatively being planned:
  - **Ringling Museum**-(Oct) Lessons based on the ELA literary element standard of Setting. Authors use Setting to establish the time, place, and social conditions in which a story takes place. We will visit the art museum, circus museum, the Ca' D'Zan Estate, and Bayfront Gardens to give students the opportunity to explore similar settings that are described in our classroom novel studies.
  - **Cracker Country**- (Mar) Lessons are based on the Social Studies standard of pioneer life in Florida. Students will discover the daily lives of Florida's pioneers. Spend the morning immersed in a rural Florida community of the past and learn how a late 19th century rural family survived. Students will dip a candle, visit a train station, and shop in the Cracker Country General Store.
  - **LegoLand** – (May) Lessons are based on Energy and Motion. Students will experience roller coasters that rely on the fundamental principles of physics and engineering.

## **Conduct and ATL's**

### **Intermediate ATL Policy**

- ATL's can be tracked by subject on RenWeb.
- ATL notes will be posted regarding incomplete classwork and homework assignments.
- All students will begin with a four and the grade will be reduced as infractions occur during the trimester.

## **ATL Behaviors**

### *Organization*

- Prepared for class
- Punctual with homework and in-class assignments
- Completed homework and in-class assignments

### *Collaboration & Communication*

- Participates in class.
- Attentive and engaged during instruction.
- Demonstrates helpfulness and teamwork.

### *Reflection & Personal Initiative*

- Open to teacher help and correction
- Makes effort to improve behavior/performance by seeking help when needed
- Makes time for personal study and improvement

## **ATL Reporting for Report Cards**

- 0 – 4 Notifications = 4
- 5 – 8 Notifications = 3
- 9 – 12 Notifications = 2
- Greater than 12 Notifications = 1

\*\*Students will visit with Mrs. Caraker after the third notification to discuss ways to modify behavior. \*\*

**Intermediate Discipline Policy-** Behavior Events are tracked in RenWeb.

- Discipline will be used as a consequence for negative behavior with the purpose of the discipline being to change the negative behavior to a positive behavior.
- There will be at least two teacher interventions prior to a child receiving a behavior event notification in RenWeb as a consequence for negative behavior.
- Upon receiving the 9th behavior notification, a child will also receive a detention.

- Teacher interventions for behavior will be communicated to parents through the RenWeb Behavior Management System.
- Using the RenWeb Behavior Management System, parents access their child's behavior history for all classes in a single location.

## **Conduct Behaviors**

### *Respect*

- Demonstrates a good attitude.
- Is respectful to adults and peers in speech and action.
- Maintains positive peer relationships.
- Respectful of personal, peer, and school property

### *Responsibility*

- Exhibits self-control.
- Follows directions and does not need constant reminders.
- Socializes only at appropriate times.
- Takes ownership for behavior.

## **Conduct Reporting for Report Cards**

- 0 – 3 Notifications = 4
- 4 – 8 Notifications = 3
- 9 - 14 Notifications = 2
- Greater than 14 Notifications = 1

### *Automatic Detention*

- Disrespect to property/person
- Dishonesty/cheating/copying assignments.
- Conduct that is un-Christian or contrary to the character of a Catholic school.

\*\*When a child receives detention, there will be an automatic reduction in the Conduct Grade for the trimester. This reduction is at the discretion of the administration based on the infraction for which the child receives detention. \*\*

## Assessment Retakes

- Students who score lower than 80% on a summative may retake the summative assessment.
- Students are limited to a total of 3 summative retakes each trimester.
- Parents and/or students are responsible for initiating the retake process. This application should be completed by the parents and student, signed by the student and parent, and returned to the examining teacher no more than two days after the grade was posted.
- Retake forms are available in the classroom, or the form may be found on the Educators pages webpage - Please print out this retake form and have your child submit it as a hard copy. Students are permitted to take 3 retake assessments per trimester.

## Curriculum Notes

### **Religion**

The Religion curriculum is built around the Sadlier *Christ In Us* textbook.

- Summative Assessments are given at the conclusion of each chapter.
- Formative assessments include textbook pages, activity pages, writing, and vocabulary.
- Prayer recitations are summative assessments and will be assigned periodically throughout the year. There are no formative assessments leading to the summative prayer recitation.
- In addition to the textbook chapters, there will be units on both Advent and Lent and students will participate in school-wide retreats and service projects.

### **Math**

The Math curriculum is built around the *Sadlier Math* textbook and workbook.

- Summative assessments are given at the completion of each chapter.
- Formative assessments will be given throughout each chapter including book pages, practice masters, and fact quizzes.
- IXL Math - Students are given class time to complete the assignments. Students can also work on them for homework. For a 100 to be entered into the grade book, the students must achieve at least a 90% on their IXL assignment. Students who do not complete or hand in their IXL assignments on the specific due date will be given a 0 in Renweb. If the student makes up the assignments, they will receive partial credit and 50% will be entered into Renweb for the assignment. If a student is absent, they will have the number of days they were out to show the completed assignment. For example, if a student is out for 2 days, they will have 2 days to show us the completed IXL assignments.
- Students can expect to have math homework nightly (Monday-Thursday) and this will mostly be pages in their math workbook. Students are encouraged to study facts nightly.

## Science

The Science curriculum is built around the Person *Elevate Science* textbook.

- Formative assessments will be given throughout each unit and most will consist of open note classwork for each lesson, in-class labs, vocabulary practice, and practice masters.
- A summative assessment will be given at the end of each unit.
- Students will also have summative projects that will be assigned. These projects do not offer a retake option as they are completed over several days and the students are able to ask questions and are given corrective feedback.

## Reading

The reading curriculum is built around the Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Journeys* textbook and five novels.

### *Journeys*

Weekly Individual Lesson-

- Formative Assessments include classwork from story elements and reading strategies discussions, fluency mini lessons, daily quick writes, written response, vocabulary practice, spelling assessment, and Reader's Notebook pages.
- A Summative Assessment given at the conclusion of each individual lesson, includes vocabulary, story comprehension, and a written response (graded with a 10 point rubric).

Unit- Cumulative (5 Lessons each)

The following Summative assessments are given during each Unit:

- Unit Benchmark Assessment- given at the conclusion of each unit.
- Spelling Assessment
- Cold Reads – given after Lesson 2 and Lesson 4. Cold Reads are stories that students have never seen before. They read and answer questions about what they just read

### *Novel Study*

The students will read and analyze the following five novels: *From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis, and *The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster.

- Formative Assessments include classwork from story elements discussions, interactive notebook activities, and vocabulary practice.
- A Summative Assessment will be given at the end of each novel and includes vocabulary.
- Students will also have summative projects that will be assigned. These projects do not offer a retake option as they are completed over several days and the students are able to ask questions and are given corrective feedback.

## **Accelerator Reading (AR)–**

Library/Media skills is an ELA subskill on the MTC Diocesan Report Card. The grade earned in Library/Media skills is based on the Accelerated Reading (AR) goal percentage achieved. AR Goals are based on the STAR Reading assessment, average percent correct, and selected minutes of daily reading.

Students should be reading chapter books at their independent reading level and taking AR assessments throughout the trimester. At the end of each trimester, students will receive a grade of 4,3,2 or 1 on their report card for Accelerated Reader based on the percentage of their goal that they achieve.

Renaissance Learning- You may log into Renaissance Learning at any time to monitor your child's progress. A link to the website may be found on our Grade 4 Educator pages Accelerated Reader tab.

### **Library/Media Skills Grading Scale:**

4= Student achieved 90%-100% of their AR Goal

3= Student achieved 80%-89% of their AR Goal

2= Student achieved 70%-79% of their AR Goal

1= Student achieved below 69% of their AR Goal

**Students must earn a grade of "3" or "4" in Library/Media skills in order to be eligible for Honor Roll.**

### **AR Stretch Goal-**

Students are encouraged to "reach for the stars" by going beyond the Renaissance Learning Accelerated Reading Goal. When a student surpasses their 100% goal, they will be eligible to receive schoolwide incentives at the end of the trimester.

100%- Ice Cream Party

150%- Silly Sock Day

200%-Dress Down Day

### **AR Quizzes:**

Students may complete AR quizzes in the library on designated library days and in the classroom with permission from the teacher.

Students will be conferencing with the teacher during library time to discuss their AR goals. Teacher will touch base regarding their trimester reading goals of 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% expectations. Students will be given feedback to keep them on track. This information will be

kept in their AR Goals Notebook. If the percentages are not met, actions may result in an ATL at teacher's discretion.

### **AR Reading Goals Notebook-**

The following items will be kept in their AR Reading Notebook:

- Adventures in Reading: AR Completed Quiz Tracking Coloring Sheet (for classroom prizes)
- AR Book Log and Teacher Conferencing Notes (What are they reading? Do they like the book? What page are they on? etc.)
- AR STAR Goals and Teacher Conferencing notes

## **Language Arts**

### **Grammar & Vocabulary**

The Grammar & Vocabulary curriculum is built around the Sadlier Grammar Workshop and Vocabulary Workshop textbooks.

- Formative Assessments include workbook pages, Sadlier online games, and IXL assignments.
- Summative Assessments given at the end of each Unit.
- IXL Grammar & IXL Vocabulary - Students are given class time to complete assignments. Students can also work on them for homework. For a 100 to be entered into the grade book, the students must achieve at least a 90% on their IXL assignment. Students who do not complete or hand in their IXL assignments on the specific due date will be given a 0 in Renweb. If the student makes up the assignments, they will receive partial credit and 50% will be entered into Renweb for the assignment. If a student is absent, they will have the number of days they were out to show the completed assignment. For example, if a student is out for 2 days, they will have 2 days to show us the completed IXL assignments.

## **Writing**

*Writing Workshop-* Students will have a Writing Notebook where they will create their own masterpieces using each step from the Writing Process. **All writing will be done in class.** Students will be meeting with the teacher and peers regularly for feedback. Once they complete the masterpiece, they can share their final draft with their classmates, and it will be placed in their Writing Portfolio. The completed Writing Portfolio will be sent home at the end of the year.

- Formative Grades will include the work that is completed in each step of the process.
- Summative Assessment will be graded through a rubric designated for the following writing styles:
  - Trimester 1- Personal Narrative
  - Trimester 2- Persuasive
  - Trimester 3- Expository



*Six Traits of Writing*- Each trimester students will be learning 2 traits of writing.

- Trimester 1- Ideas and Organization
- Trimester 2- Voice and Word Choice
- Trimester 3- Sentence Fluency and Conventions
- Formative grades will include classwork as the trait lesson is being taught.
- A Summative assessment will be a timed (90mins) written essay that incorporates the traits taught in the following writing styles:
  - Trimester 1- Personal Narrative
  - Trimester 2- Persuasive
  - Trimester 3- Expository

### **Social Studies**

The Social Studies curriculum is built around the Pearson *My World* and McGraw Hill *Florida Social Studies* textbooks.

- Formative assessments will be given throughout each unit, and most will consist of open note classwork for each lesson, vocabulary practice, and interactive notebook.
- A summative assessment will be given at the end of each unit.
- Students will also have summative projects that will be assigned. These projects do not offer a retake option as they are completed over several days and the students are able to ask questions and are given corrective feedback.
- Field trip to Cracker Country will enhance student learning during the study of Florida history.