



August 21, 2014

Dear parent/caregiver(s),

It's our pleasure to welcome you and your child to 4th grade. We are in for an exciting year at Scarborough Elementary.

We are looking forward to meeting with you soon. The following is detailed information on what we expect of our 4th grade students. The purpose of sending this information is to help you, the parent, know what your child should be bringing home and completing on a regular basis. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us through a note or phone call. Thank you for your continued support!

Our 4th grade parent night will be held on September 4 following the PTA meeting. Please watch your child's Take-Home Folder for more information.

Our goal is to make our classroom a safe and comfortable place for your child. With respect, love, and encouragement we know that together we will make this a successful year!

Sincerely,
Matt Rigby

4th Grade Grading Policy

4th grade standards and TEKS will be graded.

Grades will be given after the TEK/P4omotion Standard has been taught and practiced for an appropriate amount of time and mastered skill. Re-teaching will be given to select students as necessary.

Grades are based on percentages

- Classwork-60%
- Assessments and Projects-40%

When a child does not do well on a test, they will have the opportunity to “redo” that assessment for a better grade. (please see the retake policy for guidelines)

Grades will be updated regularly on Parent Connection. Please check this weekly to stay informed on your child’s academic success.

Graded assignments will be sent home in your student’s blue folder the first day of each week.



4th Grade Homework Policy



1. A fourth grade student should spend no more than **40 minutes** a night working on homework assignments.
2. **Math, Reading & Writing** homework will be assigned **Monday-Thursday.**
3. Students are also expected to complete work daily in class. Students will be given ample time to complete the activities in class if they use their time wisely. Unfinished work will be taken home as homework and/or finished in study hall.
4. Scarborough Huskies are expected to read nightly in addition to their regularly assigned homework. The students are challenged to **read 30 chapter books** over the course of this school year!!!
5. Students are also responsible for memorizing their multiplication and division facts. Practice should be done at home every night using flashcards, online games, playing cards, dice, etc.
6. Homework is expected to be returned daily, unless otherwise specified by the teacher.
7. Each student is responsible for obtaining a **parent signature every day** of the school week in their agenda.

4th Grade Reward Recess Policy

Maximizing your child's learning experience and developing positive socialization with peers and adults are two of our top priorities here at Scarborough. One area we feel maximizes that learning is respectful behavior in the classroom and around the building. Students have the opportunity every week to earn an extra 25 minute recess on Friday afternoon in addition to their regular recess that day.

Each week, the classroom teacher will look at each student's behavior calendar to see if any problems occurred during the week. If a student did **NOT** receive any marks on their calendar for that week, they will get to attend the extra 25 minute recess on that particular Friday.

If the student **DID** receive an infraction that week, they did not meet the reward recess criteria for that week, so they will attend a 25 minute study hall on that particular Friday. Again, students do have an opportunity each week to earn the reward recess.

We feel that by rewarding students for consistent positive behavior that it will heighten the learning and positive interaction that is done each day in the classroom.

CITIZENSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Husky Expectation

1. Completes work in a reasonable amount of time.
2. Stays on task.
3. Works well with others.
4. Listens to and follows directions.
5. Accepts and fulfills responsibility.
6. Follow school and classroom rooms.
7. Demonstrates appropriate grade level behavior.

We will be incorporating the “7 Habits of Highly Effective People” by Stephen Covey, into our daily routines, procedures, and vocabulary to help students become more accountable for their own behavior.

1. Be Proactive
2. Begin with the end in mind
3. Put first things first
4. Think win-win
5. Seek first to understand, then to be understood
6. Synergize
7. Sharpen the Saw

Each student will have a behavior chart in their leadership binder every nine weeks. It is the student’s goal to have an unmarked behavior chart. Parents will have the opportunity to see and discuss their child’s behavior daily. This is a great opportunity to encourage the 7 habits at home. Parents are expected to sign the Citizen and Responsibility chart weekly.

The Report Card Citizenship Grade will be calculated by counting the number of infractions and incomplete homework within a nine week period. (Infractions are considered any color lower than green.)

0-4 infractions in a nine weeks =E

5-8 infractions in a nine weeks=S

9-13 infractions in a nine weeks=N

14+ infractions in a nine weeks=U

4th Grade Husky

SNACK GUIDELINES

Below is an approved snack list. The snack **MUST** be on the list in order for your child to eat it during the designated snack time. If your child brings a snack that is not on the approved list, then they will not be allowed to eat it until lunch.

APPROVED SNACK ITEMS

Fruits and Veggies

(they can bring in a fruit or veggie dip too)

(no bananas please, the peels start to smell by the end of the day)

Crackers

Pretzels

Granola bars

Cereal bars/Dry Cereal/Pop Tarts

Yogurt

Beef Jerky

Trail Mix

Cheese (cubes, string, etc.)

Fruit snacks that are gummy-like are not considered on the approved list

WATER BOTTLES

Your child may also bring in a water bottle to have at their desk during the day that meets these guidelines.

- Plastic Bottle---not as loud if it falls on the floor
- "Pop-top" lid----opens and closes easily to prevent spilling
- Water bottle contains only pure water--- flavored drinks or drink flavor packets are not allowed in the classroom

Brain research indicates that being hydrated gives people more potential to think clearly. The best way to hydrate is with **PURE** water. Please encourage your child to bring water, as the water fountain is not near the classroom and drink breaks will be taken as a class at scheduled times.

Mr. Rigby's Class Schedule

8:00 – 8:30 HOWL

8:35 – 9:20 Conference

9:25 – 10:25 Writing

9:25 – 9:55 Mini-lesson/Modeling

9:55 – 10:15 Conferences/Stations

10:15 – 10:25 Reflective Journal

10:25 – 12:00 Reading

10:25 – 10:55 Skill Lesson

10:55 - 11:55 Guided Reading/Stations

11:55 – 12:00 Husky Huddle

12:00 – 12:50 Lunch/Recess/Bathroom Break

12:50 – 2:10 Math

12:50 – 1:10 Lesson Intro

1:10 – 1:55 Guided Math/Stations

1:55 – 2:15 Husky Huddle

2:15 – 2:45 Science/Social Studies

Wish List

Paper with Border

Pencils, Pencils, Pencils

Color Printer Paper

Binder Dividers

Sharpies-Any Color

Clorox Wipes

Post-Its, Post-Its, Post-Its

Expo Markers-Any Color

Dry Erasers

You make such a difference in your child's education. Thank you so much if you are able to donate to our classroom

EXTRAS!!!

School times: 7:30* – 2:45

*Students who arrive after 7:45 are considered tardy. For more information on tardies and absences contact the front office (397-8000).

Dress Code

- Shorts and skirts may be no shorter than four inches above the knee.
- Students violating the NISD dress code will be sent to the front office where they will call home for a change of clothes.
- Students are encouraged to show their Husky pride by wearing the Scarborough spirit shirt on Friday's. Spirit shirts may be purchased from the front office.

Before school

The building opens at 7:15. For student safety please do not drop off children earlier. Fourth grade students are to wait in the gym. Students are expected to read or work on math facts while they wait.

After school

Student choices are riding the bus home, getting picked up by a parent, or going to an after school program. If you need to change your child's method of transportation contact the front office (397-8000) before 2:00 p.m. Please do not e-mail me with changes.

Toys/Gadgets/Dangerous Weapons

Toys, stuffed animals, electronics and/or playground equipment may not be brought to school. Your child is always encouraged to bring books to read. No one may bring a weapon or toy item associated with weapons for any reason any time. Fireworks, firecrackers, or poppers may never be brought to school. Please seriously review all of the above with your child.

Birthday celebrations

To celebrate your student's birthday store purchased cupcakes may be distributed the last five minutes of lunch. Contact me for more info.

Questions to ask while your child is reading:

Fiction Question Stems:

Why is it important to the story that....

What is paragraph/page _____ mainly about?

What identifies the story as _____ genre?

Which word from paragraph/page _____ helps the reader understand the meaning of the word _____?

When _____ happens, then _____ (cause/effect)

Identify the best summary.

Which sentence shows _____?

Which line from the text supports the idea that _____?

What lesson does _____ learn?

What quotation from the text best supports _____?