

September 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome your child to my class. We can look forward to a very exciting and rewarding school year. We are truly lucky to have the opportunity to spend fourth grade together. I believe it will be a rewarding experience for all of us.

In order to provide my students with the positive learning environment that they deserve, we will be following the behavior contract listed below. Also, I want to make you aware of the grading policies which we follow in fourth grade as well as some important events. Please read on...

Behavior Contract

I have listed below our classroom rules, consequences for misbehavior, and positive reinforcements used to encourage desired behavior. In fourth grade, we will be spending time on good character development as we work with each other to learn and grow. You will see some of these ideas reflected in the rules that we have developed together. We also adhere to the guidelines in the Student Handbook that can be found in the school homework book. Please review the following information and discuss it with your child.

Classroom Rules:

- 1) One person speaks at a time.
- 2) Only use polite words.
- 3) Work hard to be on time.
- 4) Respect other people's things.
- 5) Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- 6) Work quietly.
- 7) Work to help each other as a team.
- 8) Be prepared for class every day.
- 9) Always do your best.

A color coded behavior calendar has been inserted into your child's take home folder. The color indicates behavior for that school day. Parents or guardians need to sign the behavior calendar at the end of each week.

Color Code:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Green – | Excellent Behavior |
| Yellow – | Warning |
| Orange – | Consequence (chosen based on the misbehavior) |
| Red – | Severe Clause / Principal's Office |

Severe clause will be used in the event of a child defying the teacher, fighting, or disrupting the class in any way that prevents the teacher from teaching and the students from learning. When a student chooses to misbehave, an appropriate consequence will be chosen based on the issue.

These are some of the consequences that may follow:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Time out | Recess detention |
| Make amends | After school detention |
| Call home | “Think about it”-student reflection |
| Letter home-please sign and return | Referral to Principal |

Individual Positive Reinforcements:

- 1) Confidence (most valuable)
- 2) Praise (used most often)
- 3) Stand Out Star
- 4) Prize
- 5) Free time
- 6) Fun Friday– for a week of all green or up to three yellow (no orange or red)

Grading Policy

Some assignments, such as handwriting practice, will be given one of the following marks:

- √+ Excellent
- √ Good
- √- Needs Improvement

Other assignments may be scored as a fraction. The assignment will be worth a total number of points found in the bottom number. The top number represents the number of points earned by the child. Example: 8/10 This means that the assignment was worth 10 points and 8 points were earned. Finally, tests, quizzes and major class work assignments will be given a letter grade:

A+	97% to 100%	A	93% to 96%	A-	90 to 92%
B+	87% to 89%	B	83% to 86%	B-	80 to 82%
C+	77% to 79%	C	73% to 76%	C-	70 to 72%
U	below 70 %				

While assignments with letter grades are weighted most heavily when considering final grades, all work is converted to a percent and contributes to the final grade.

Homework

In order to help keep us organized, your child has a “Take Home” folder. This is to be used to take home completed work and homework (HW). The “KEEP” side is for you to keep at home and the “RETURN” side is to be sent back to me. This folder will be one of the most important tools we use to help us be prepared for class and therefore must be brought to class EVERYDAY.

A homework assignment notebook will be used by students everyday. I will stamp your child’s book after they have copied down their assignments. After your child has completed the assignments, PLEASE SIGN THE SHEET. Everyday that your child has completed the assignment, he/she will get a star on his/her behavior / homework chart. If all HW is completed, stars and prizes can be earned. Also, please feel free to write any questions you may have for me on the HW page.

Homework is given daily, usually Monday through Thursday, to reinforce work covered in class. A quick check of homework each day, by parents and teacher, shows our students that education is important and valuable. Let them know that their success is important to you.

Birthdays:

Parents are welcome to send in a treat on their child's birthday. Please send it in with your child in the morning. Summer birthdays will be celebrated at the ½ year birthday. If a student's birthday does not fall on a school day, we can celebrate on the Friday prior or the Monday after.

Lunch / Recess (12:00 to 12:40) and Physical Education:

Every day, students will be going outside for recess, weather permitting. Sneakers are required for recess and gym class; therefore, dress shoes should be changed before going to lunch.

Special Subjects (1:35 to 2:15):

A day	Chinese	Ms. Estes	
B day	Music	Mrs. Savage	(First semester)
	Art	Ms. Friedman	(Second semester)
C day	Physical Education/Health	Mr. Santarone	

You will see a new face in the classroom this year. Please welcome Miss Kremer, our instructional assistant. I look forward to working with you this year to make your child's school year a productive and positive one. Please feel free to contact me at the number or email address below. I can be reached before and after school by appointment. See you at Back to School night –**Thursday, September 18, 2008!**

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christina (Chrissy) Pierce
853-0123 x433
cpierce@woodburysch.com

Please sign and return the form below to me as soon as possible.

I have read the behavior contract, grading policy and other important information about class. I have discussed it with my child and we agree to abide by it. I will work with my child during the year to help them to grow and learn. I will sign the behavior calendar on a weekly basis, the homework book daily and praise my child every time they have success!

Date:

Student's signature:

Parent's signature: