

Fourth Grade Handbook

We are very excited about beginning a new school year with your child. Fourth grade will be a very exciting year. We hope that this handbook will help make the 4th grade experience easier for you and your child. The fourth grade teachers this year are Heather Maxwell, Matt Mock, and Randy Payne.

Curriculum:

Science textbook is SRA and some units that are covered are:

- Cell Structure and Function - investigate structure and function of plant and animal cells.
- Interactions Between Living Things and their Environment - investigate how living things interact with one another and with nonliving elements of their environment.
- Food Production and Energy for Life - study basic parts of plants, investigate how plants produce food, and discover that plants and animals use food to sustain life.
- Heredity and Reproduction - understand basic principals of inheritance.
- Diversity and Adaptation Among Living Things - understand that living things have characteristics that allow them to survive in their environment.
- Biological Change - understand living things have changed over time.
- Earth and Its Place in the Universe - investigate structure of the universe.
- Atmospheric Cycles - investigate relationships among atmospheric conditions, weather, and climate.
- Earth Features - understand Earth has many geological features that are always changing.
- Earth Resources - investigate properties, uses, and conservation of Earth's resources.
- Forces and Motion - investigate the effects of force on movement of objects.
- Structure and Properties of Matter - investigate characteristic properties of matter.
- Interactions of Matter - investigate interactions of matter.
- Energy - investigate energy and its uses.

Math textbook is Houghton Mifflin website for this series is www.eduplace.com and some units covered are:

- Numbers and Operations - identify, represent, order, and compare numbers; estimate, compute, and solve problems.
- Algebra - analyze and use symbols to generalize patterns, use properties of operations, and analyze change in various situations.
- Geometry - analyze and describe characteristics/properties of two and three dimensional shapes, locate/specify points on a grid, use geometric concepts and reasoning to solve problems.
- Measurement- estimate and determine time, length, perimeter, area, weight, capacity, and temperature to solve problems.
- Data Analysis and Probability - collect, organize, analyze, interpret, and display data in tables and graphs.

Helpful tips for using the mathematics web site to find homework

Step 1: Go to www.wcschools.com

Step 2: Go to elementary schools and click on Tuckers Crossroads

Step 3: Go to your teacher's web page

Step 4: Click on links

Step 5: Go to the Houghton Mifflin Math Book link

Step 6: Go to the leveled practice link

Step 7: From here you will need to know what chapter and lesson your child is on. (You can find this under the math link on your teachers web page)

Step 8: Click on the unit that we are working on and find the workbook page

Step 9: Click on the practice bubble and then go.

Step 10: Print off the page (If no printer have your child write the problems off the web site on a piece of paper).

Language Arts textbook Macmillan\McGraw Hill and some units covered are:

- Writing - develop structural and creative skills of the writing process necessary to produce written language that can be read, presented to, and interpreted by various audiences.
- Elements of Language - use standard English conventions and proper spelling as appropriate to speaking and writing.
- Spelling and Vocabulary
- Parts of Speech
- Thinking Maps develop note taking and organizational skills to improve writing and reading comprehensions.

Social Studies textbook Harcourt Brace and some units covered are:

- Culture - similarities and differences among people including their beliefs, knowledge, changes, values, and tradition. Explore elements of society to develop appreciation and respect for the variety of human cultures.
- Economics - explore globalization of economy, explosion of population growth, technological changes and international competition to understand production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Examine and analyze economic concepts such as basic needs/wants, using/saving money, and policy making/decision-making.
- Geography - understand/appreciate relationships between people, places, and environments.
- Governance and Civics - governance establishes structures of power and authority to provide order and stability. Civic efficacy requires understanding of rights, responsibilities, ethical behavior, and roles of citizens in communities, nations, and world.
- History - involves issues, people, and events.

•State of Tennessee Department of Education. A Blueprint for Learning: A Teacher's Guide to the Tennessee Curriculum.

State Standard for 4th grade can be found at the www.wcschools.com web page or <http://www.tennessee.gov/education/ci/standards/index.shtml>

We will be switching for Reading and Math this year. We feel that this will be beneficial for your child because we will be spending an extended amount of time with each group of students.

We want to encourage parents to help by volunteering in the classroom, and going on field trips. Some other ways parents can help their children in the classroom are: Check homework, encourage student to have a study buddy, go over problems missed on graded papers, practice and memorize rules, complete extra practices at the end of each chapter, look over notes and Chapters each night, ask what has been learned in class, and take advantage of extra practice work (ask for it).—

Classroom Rules and Consequences

The fourth grade discipline plan for this year will be a demerit system. There will be consequences for receiving demerits and rewards may be earned for good behavior.

Rules are as follows:

1. Listen and follow directions the first time given
2. Keep your hands, feet, objects, and unkind words to yourself
3. Respect others and their belongings
4. Obey all school rules
5. Come to class prepared to learn

Consequences for receiving a demerit

1. 1st demerit = warning
 2. 2nd demerit = 10 minutes walking on track in designated area during recess
 3. 3rd Demerit = 15 minutes walling on track in designated area during recess and call parents
 4. 4th demerit = go to the principal's office
- Some offenses may go straight to the office depending on severity

Rewards: Verbal Praises and Special Privileges such as: lunch with the teacher, extra free time, treats, and drink passes

Agenda Book

We are very excited to have the opportunity to use student agenda books again this year. We feel that this will increase Parent\Teacher communications as well as students' responsibility. Assignments, projects, and test dates are put on the board in a reasonable amount of time. It will be the students' responsibility to write each daily assignment in the agenda book. Students need to turn in the unfinished work the next morning for full credit. If the assignment is not turned in the next morning there will be 10 points deducted from the assignment for everyday it is late. We will also deduct 5 points for papers turned in without a name. Parents can help by signing the agenda book daily and checking to be sure that students have completed the assignments that are circled. You can also use the agenda book to communicate any needs your child may have.

Communication

We are looking forward to this year and expect it to be the best year yet. If you have any questions or concerns please call 444-3956 from 8:00 to 3:30, and we will check and return phone messages during our planning time or after school. We are available for meetings before and after school. Agenda books will be checked at about 2:40 everyday if you write a message in the agenda book please have your child show us the agenda book during the morning.

The web page has daily assignments, test dates, upcoming events, 4th grade links, spelling lists, vocabulary lists and some study guides for tests (for students that loose their copy from class). The address is:

- <http://teacherweb.com/TN/TuckersCrossroads/Payne>
- <http://teacherweb.com/TN/TuckersCrossroads/Mock>
- <http://teacherweb.com/TN/TuckersCrossroads/Maxwell>

We are also including our school e-mail addresses for you to e-mail us any concerns or questions you may have about your child. We will try to answer your e-mail in a timely manner either on our planning time or before or after school.

- mockm@wcschools.com
- payner@wcschools.com
- maxwellh@wcschools.com

Grades

Progress reports are sent home in the middle of each nine-week grading period and report cards are sent home every nine weeks. Special projects and some tests may be weighed heavier than most assignments. Tuesday Folders with students' graded work will be sent home every Tuesday. Please check over the graded work and send only the folder back before Thursday. Many parents like to review these papers with their child to help reinforce the skills.

Our county wide grading scale is:

- 100-93 = A
- 92-85 = B
- 84-75 = C
- 74-70 = D
- 69- 0 = F

Snacks Guidelines

If your child would like to bring a healthy snack to school each day these are the guidelines to follow:

- Your child may bring a water bottle to school with a pop-top lid not a screw on lid. Please send only water in these bottles.
- If you need a spoon to eat the snack please bring your own.
- Please send only a single serving size, please do not send the entire box of snack for one child to eat from for the week.
- Please do not send candy, cookies, chips or soda for snack.
- Some suggestions for snacks:
 1. Apples, grapes, or other fruit
 2. Carrots or celery sticks
 3. Pretzels
 4. Popcorn
 5. Crackers or graham crackers
 6. Peanut butter crackers
 7. Fruit roll ups or gummy fruit snacks
 8. Goldfish crackers
 9. String cheese
 10. Granola bars

Field Trip

We will plan two field trips this year. We will need several parents to help with these trips. If you are interested please let us know when the permission slip is sent home. Remember it is county policy that no siblings may attend the field trip.

Classroom Parties

We will have three parties this year. (Fall, Christmas, Valentines) We will have a sign up sheet at Open House for any parent that would like to help with the parties. We will also send home notes for parents to sign up to bring item that are needed for the parties when time comes.

Student Birthday Parties

If you would like to send in snacks for your child's birthday that will be fine, but the teacher has the discretion on the time the treats shall be passed out.

It is policy that names, addresses and phone numbers cannot be passed out. If you send invitations through the school for a birthday party it must include every child in the class.