Dear Parents,

Welcome to fourth grade! Please use the following information as a reference throughout the school year. We are looking forward to having your child in our class and working with all of you to make this fourth-grade year a successful one. This year’s fourth-grade team consists of four teachers. There are two homeroom classes; Mrs. Metzbower and Mrs. Boyle. In order to reduce instructional classroom sizes, Mrs. Bark and Mrs. Macchia will be teaching ELA and/or math.

Schedule:

8:30-8:45-Arrival
8:45-9:05-Morning Meeting
9:05-9:55-Special Area Class
10:00-12:15-Rotation 1
12:20-12:50-Lunch
12:50-1:10-Recess
1:10-3:25-Rotation 2
3:30-3:45-Dismissal

**Absences:** Teachers will be taking attendance daily in each subject. Students will need to make up the work missed. They have the same number of days to make up the work as when they were absent. So, if they miss two days, they have two days to complete and turn in the work.

**Planner:** Your child will be using a planner to record their assignments.

**Grading:** A letter grading system (A, B, C, D, E) is first used in fourth grade. Please review grades on Schoology weekly.

**Redos:** The students will have opportunities to redo assignments. If a student wishes to redo an assignment, they fill out a redo form and turn it in with the original work. The teacher will then provide the opportunity to redo the work during our morning meeting.

- A student in grades 3-5 may only redo an assignment below 79%.
- A student may not redo the same assignment more than two times.
- A student will be able to redo three assignments per subject/per term.
- A redo must be completed within two weeks of the child receiving their grade.
- Unit assessments and math checkpoints are not eligible for redos.

**Supplies:** Restock pencil cases regularly. Supplies needed are sharpened pencils, post-its, highlighters, colored pencils/crayons, scissors, and glue. Binders will need to be restocked with filler paper. An independent reading book is needed daily.

**Mrs. Metzbower:** I will be teaching your child math & content this year. Students will be using a math journal & binder during the entire year. This journal will help your child keep math notes and resource papers in one location. This notebook, binder, and classwork can be used to help your child prepare for upcoming unit assessments. We will be using the Bridges math curriculum again this year for both 4th-grade math and 5th-grade advanced math. Students will receive a weekly homework assignment on Fridays that must be returned the following Friday. Content will consist of a
rotation of science, social studies, and health units that will be taught during
the 2-hour rotation.

Mrs. Boyle & Mrs. Macchia: We will be teaching your child reading, writing, and word study this year. Fourth grade is an exhilarating year for readers. While we continue to learn to read, we are also now reading to learn. Our books become more complex, rich, and deep, allowing for collaboration, discussion, critical thinking, and interpretation.

Students will engage with books and other written material through shared reading in a whole group, small group guided reading lessons as well as meaningful independent work. We will be working hard to respond to what we have read by writing.

Students will receive a weekly homework assignment on most Fridays that must be returned the following Friday.

Handle with Care: If your family is experiencing difficulty at home, we would like to provide additional support at school. We understand that you are not always able to share details and that’s okay. If your child is coming to school after a difficult night, morning, or weekend, please email us, “Handle with Care.” Nothing else will be said or asked. This will let us know that your child may need extra time, patience, or help during the day.

Communication: We will help your child in any way we are able to this year. You may contact us by email (smetzbower@bcps.org, sboyle@bcps.org, nmacchia@bcps.org, kbark@bcps.org). We look forward to working with all of you and making sure your child has a successful and awesome year.

Sincerely,

Sandy Boyle
Sheri Metzbower
Nora Macchia
Kelly Bark