

North Harrison Elementary  
**FOURTH GRADE HANDBOOK**  
2008-2009

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## MRS. YOUNG'S CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

It is my belief that all students have the right to learn in a safe and unthreatening environment. It is my desire for students to accept responsibility for their own behaviors. Just as we live in a society that gives us specific rights and expects us to behave as responsible citizens, the students in our classroom are also expected to respect the rights of others and behave in a responsible manner. Posted on our classroom wall are the rights and responsibilities of all students in my classroom.

- It is **your right** to learn in this classroom.
- Therefore, it is **your responsibility** to behave in a way that will allow others to learn.
- It is **your right** to be heard.
- Therefore, it is **your responsibility** to remain quiet when others are speaking and listen to what is said.
- It is **your right** to feel comfortable and safe in this classroom.
- Therefore, it is **your responsibility** to behave toward others in a way that will make them feel comfortable and safe.

As 4th graders you are responsible for your own actions. Students having difficulty meeting the classroom expectations will meet privately with me to discuss their behavior and will be given the opportunity to correct the problem themselves. If students are not able to correct their own behavior (with my help), the next step is parent involvement. At a student centered conference students will discuss the behavior problem with myself and their parents and will develop a plan of action to correct the problem. Students still not able to correct the behavior will be referred to the principal for disciplinary action.

At the beginning of the school year we will hold a class meeting to establish our classroom norms. Students will be encouraged to identify "rules" that they believe would best help them learn and feel secure in our classroom community. Once the "rules" have been agreed upon they will be posted on the wall and signed by all class members to show our commitment to follow them.

## CLASS REWARDS

Our classroom will be focusing on great behavior. As a class, we will set high expectations for each other and encourage one another to excel. Students will be rewarded for positive behaviors with **classroom cash**. Signs are posted in our classroom listing the rewards that can be purchased with the classroom cash. We will also have silent auctions where students can purchase some interesting items with their cash. Students are also rewarded for completing daily assignments and turning them in on time. Students having no late or missing papers during the week will earn a Friday "Homework" party! Those earning the party may bring a **healthy** snack (apple, carrots, peanut butter crackers, etc.) and a **healthy** drink if they wish. Outstanding **group** behavior will be rewarded with our "WAY TO GO!" board. When caught being good, we will add a letter to the board. Once we have spelled out "WAY TO GO!" students will receive an extra 15 minute recess.

## **eMINTS(Enhancing Missouri’s Networked Instructional Teaching Strategies)**

You have probably already heard that North Harrison R-III was selected to receive nearly \$400,000 in grant money to implement the eMINTS program district wide. This means that every child in our district will benefit from innovative research-based teaching strategies and the use of current technology in the classroom. All classrooms are equipped with Smartboards (interactive whiteboards) and projectors. All students have access to computers and printers in the classroom. Students in grades 3 – 5 will share computers in a 2:1 ration. Students in grades 6-8 will have a 1:1 computer ratio. High school students will be assigned their own laptop that will move with them from class to class. Students will also have access to some great internet resources like BrainPop, Gizmos, and Study Island.

In order for us to provide this eMINTS opportunity to our students it is necessary for teachers to participate in professional development courses that will, for the most part, take place after school hours. However, some of the courses that I will be participating in are offered only during the school day in Columbia, Missouri. Therefore I will be out of the building approximately once a month during the school year.

If you would like to get more information about eMINTS, visit their [website](#).

## **COMMUNICATION**

Newsletters are sent out periodically to keep students and parents posted on important information and events in our classroom. You may also log onto our [class web page](#) for current information. You can also visit our class blog.

Our classroom webpage is updated frequently with information and pictures showing what we’re learning. We love seeing ourselves on the internet. To protect student identities on the internet, I use only first names to identify children. If you prefer that your child’s picture not appear on the internet, I will use a “blurring” or sticker to cover the child’s face in any group shots, and individual projects that contain the child’s picture will not be posted to our web page. Please indicate your preferences on the internet permission form sent home with your student.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s education, please contact me. The best and quickest way is to e-mail me at [youngl@nhr3.net](mailto:youngl@nhr3.net). If you prefer to call, you can reach the elementary office at 867-5214. If I am in class at the time of your call, the secretary will forward you to my voicemail. Please leave a detailed message regarding your question or concern so that I may gather any information necessary to address your questions when I return your call.

## **ASSIGNMENT BOOKS**

Assignment Books should come home nightly. The books contain information about what your child has studied in each subject during the day. You can also see at a glance which assignments were completed and which assignments should be finished as homework. Please review the daily assignments with your child and ask them to tell you more about what they have learned. It’s a great way to “cement” their learning. The Assignment Book is a lesson in organization and good study habits. Each day the book is returned with a parent signature the student receives one “study point” to be applied to the subject of his/her choice at the end of the quarter. Because the purpose is to help students become better organized, “study points” will not be given for incomplete, poorly completed, or unreadable pages.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Daily assignments are due at the beginning of the following school day. Lessons are to be completed neatly and to the best of the student's ability. If you have questions about a lesson or a particular item on a lesson, please check with another student or call me. I'll be glad to help in any way I can. Saxon Math requires nightly math practice. Students will bring home a Math Homework sheet and a Fact Homework sheet most nights. The total homework time for math should take approximately 15-20 minutes. If papers don't come home, check the Assignment Book to see if we had a test that day. There is *typically* no homework on test days. Students always perform better on tests when parents look over the daily homework and offer assistance. If you are helping your child with corrections and notice that he/she is frequently missing the same type of problem, please make a note on the page. It lets me know that although the problem is correct on the homework sheet, we need to go back over the concept in class.

### **Book Orders**

Scholastic book order forms will be sent home periodically. If you choose to purchase books by check, **please make checks payable to Scholastic Books**. I greatly appreciate exact change when sending cash payments.

## **North Harrison Elementary Computer Contract**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ understand that I will be using the computer and have access to the Internet on daily lessons and projects.

### **Computer Basics**

- I agree to follow directions given by my teacher, both orally and written.
- I agree to use the computer only when instructed to do so by my teacher.
- I agree to use the computer as a tool for learning.
- I agree never to download without the teacher's permission.
- I agree that if a gray box comes up, I'll raise my hand and wait for a teacher's assistance.
- I agree to use only my first name when communicating on the Internet.
- I agree that I will not access the Control Panel or Properties program for any reason.

### **No Open Searches**

- I agree to work from the websites given to me by my teacher. I will not stray from those websites at any time.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to shut off the monitor if something inappropriate comes on my screen and report it to my teacher immediately.

### **Share Workspace**

- I agree to cooperate with other students when completing a project or an assignment and to respect classmates' feelings and opinions.
- I understand that if I am unable to share and take turns at the workstation, my teacher will help me to come up with a solution. If this does not resolve the problem, I will be removed from the workstation.
- I agree to only open my own files and to ask permission before using someone else's computer.
- When helping another student I agree to use only my voice and allow them to use the mouse.

### **Computer Respect**

- I agree to use the computer appropriately, so as not to damage the workstation, software, or disks.
- I understand that it is my responsibility to report any accidental damage to the teacher immediately.
- I understand that I am never to put CD's from home in the computer at anytime.
- If at any time, I choose to not follow these guidelines, I fully understand that I will not be allowed to use the computer for a period of time as follows:

**1st offense:** Walk at recess.

**Subsequent offenses:** Talk with Principal.

I am also aware that I will be responsible for writing up the reason(s) for any poor choices I make in order to inform my parents. My parents will be required to read and sign the "Computer Misuse and Consequences Form" before I am allowed to return to using the computer. I also know that I will complete any assignments with paper/pencil, library books, and other resources as appropriate.

I have read and reviewed the above contract and agree to its terms, limitations, and consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent(s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date