

Welcome!

Hi! I'm Mrs. Young and I'm really looking forward to getting to know you this year. Fourth grade is full of great things to learn and do! Below is a sneak preview of what you have to look forward to.

Classroom Activities:

- Take a CONSERVATION field trip!
- Learn to wire a model house for electricity!
- Write and publish a classroom yearbook!

Classroom Expectations

- 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.

Classroom 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 "Shamrock" party! Those earning the party may bring a healthy snack (apple, carrots, peanut butter crackers, etc.) if they wish. I'll provide the juice drink.

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.

Newsletters

Newsletters are sent out periodically to keep you and your parents posted on important information and events in our classroom. You may also log onto our class web page for current information.

Webpage

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.

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.

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. In order for us to provide this fantastic 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, the courses that I will be participating in are offered only during the school day in Columbia, Missouri. Listed below are the days that I am required to be out for meetings. Rest assured that your student will be in good hands while I am out. This year our district is fortunate to have a permanent substitute on staff, Mrs. Kara Craig. Once she returns from maternity leave, Mrs. Craig will be in our classroom on the days I am gone.

<u>Professional Development Dates</u>	
August 29th	January 11th
September 13th-14th	February 8 th , 29th
October 10 th , 11 th , 23 rd	March 6th
November 9th	April 18th
December 7th	

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. ☺

Looking forward to a great year,
Mrs. Young
youngl@nhr3.k12.mo.us