th Grade Handbook

Dear Families,

Welcome to Sunset Ridge! The 4th grade team is excited about the upcoming school year. We look forward to watching your child learn and grow as the year progresses. We anticipate a year full of challenging and fun learning experiences. The 4th grade team is committed to reaching each child’s individual learning needs. We have already met several times, planning together to create a supportive and safe environment for all of our students. It is our belief that students perform best when they take an active role in their own learning. We encourage students to be independent and creative problem solvers and appreciate your help, parents, in making this possible!

Please refer to this handbook throughout the year for any questions you may have. Please go over this handbook with your child. Once you have done so, sign and return the attached form to your teacher. Experiences show that building a strong connection between students, parents, teachers, and the community leads to success and growth. We are all looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Bochansky, Mrs. Deplanques, Mrs. Hartley, and Mrs. Rodriguez

**Behavior Plan**

Our goal is to provide a school community where children feel comfortable expressing themselves positively and responsibly. Our expectations for all students at Sunset Ridge are as follows:

1. **Be respectful with your words, tone, and actions.**
2. **Keep hands and feet to yourself.**
3. **Care for all materials and property in our environment.**
4. **Follow directions the 1st time they are given.**
5. **Look ~ Listen ~ Participate ~ always do your best!**

**Clip Chart**

Our classrooms will have a hanging chart with 7 colors on it. Your child should be familiar with this system if he/she attended 3rd grade at Sunset Ridge. Each student will have a clip with their name or number on it. Each day, all clips will begin on green. Throughout the day as children exhibit positive behavior, they will be asked to clip up. If students are making poor choices, they will be asked to clip down. At the end of the day, students will record their ending color in their agendas for you to initial. **Please remember that green IS A GREAT DAY!!!** Do not lose sight of that! ☺

**PURPLE-** “great job” ~ moved up 3 times

**PINK-** “outstanding” ~ moved up 2 times

**BLUE-** “good day” ~ moved up 1 time

**GREEN-** “ready to learn” ~ followed ALL expectations for the day!

**YELLOW-** “reminder” ~ made a choice that was not appropriate for the classroom learning environment. Everyone in life needs reminders, so if the behavior stops, there are no additional consequences for this level.

**\*Please note: Forgotten homework will result in your child starting his/her day on yellow instead of green.**

**ORANGE-** “teacher’s choice”: the teacher will determine an appropriate consequence for their action to rectify the situation. This could be a phone call to a parent, a loss of privilege, writing an apology, etc.

**RED-** “parent contact” ~ the student was consistently making poor choices that affected the learning environment. Parents will be contacted that day about their child’s behavior.

**Parent Communication**

Communication between parents and teachers is essential to the success of children. Each day, students will bring home an agenda. This is where students record and store their daily homework and any other communication from school. It is very important that parents go through their child’s backpack each night and materials are returned to school each day. Other forms of communication will consist of emails, handwritten notes, and newsletters.

**Contacting Your Teacher**

It is essential that our learning time is not interrupted. Phone calls made to the classrooms during school hours go straight to voicemail. If you need to get a message to your child before the end of the school day, please call the 623-445-7800 and our office staff will give us the message.

**Homework Policy**

Throughout the year, homework will be given as review, practice, and test prep only. Homework will be checked for accuracy and completion. You will see a checkmark in Power Schools when homework has been turned in and recorded. Students who score below 70% on tests will only be able to retake tests if homework has been completed for that subject area.  All students are expected to read for 20 minutes every night, and students may be responsible for completing unfinished class work at home as directed by the teacher. Please monitor your child’s homework to make sure he/she is doing the best work possible.

**Late and Missing Work**

Assignments are marked late after the due date. If a student is absent, he/she has the number of days absent to complete work for full credit. For example, if a student misses Tuesday and Wednesday, he/she has 2 additional days to complete that work. Other late work will be considered at teacher discretion depending on the circumstances. It is the STUDENT’S responsibility to complete and turn in work. Any missing assignments will be entered as half credit at the end of the quarter. We do not give Extra Credit assignments.

**Grading System**

Please refer to your Power Schools account to keep track of your child’s grades. If you misplace or forget your password to log on to Power Schools, you must come to the school office with a photo ID to receive a new one. **Teachers do not have access to your Power Schools account.**

**Power School Key:**

**C**heckmark = completed

**L** = turned in late

**M** = Missing

Our day is filled with projects, assignments, and group activities ~ however, not every single item is graded. We grade assignments that we feel best reflect the curriculum standard that we are teaching at the time. In 4th grade, students will be evaluated using the following system:

97-100% = A+ 93-96% = A 90-92% = A-

 87-89% = B+ 83-86% = B 80-82% = B-

 77-79% = C+ 73-76% = C 70-72% = C-

 67-69% = D+ 63-66% = D 60-62% = D-

 59% or below = F

\*Power Schools converts points to percentages. For example, if a student receives 14/15 on a Math Quiz, that is equivalent to 93%.

**Volunteers**

Each 4th grade teacher will have her own volunteer information. ALL parent volunteers must attend a 1-hour training class. This includes anyone wishing to chaperone a field trip. Check the district website for training dates and locations. If you have taken the class in the past, you do not need to repeat the training, but you are required to update your information in the office.

**Birthdays**

Birthdays can be celebrated at school. Treats can be dropped off at the classroom before school or during school hours. Please bring single serving items, such as cupcakes, cookies, etc. **NO CAKES**, please! All treats do need to be store bought and sealed. Please alert your teacher of any food allergies your child may have ASAP.

**Snacks**

We do allow 4th graders to bring a healthy, quick, and quiet snack to school. No candy, gum, cookies, nuts, or chips, please. Water bottles are fine all the time ~ only water, though! Snack time will be decided by each individual teacher.

**\*\*Return the portion below by Friday, August 16th**

We have read the Fourth Grade Handbook and understand our expectations for the school year. We look forward to an exciting year together as a learning community!

Parent Signature Child Signature