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**2025 – 2026**

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**Instructional Philosophy**

We believe that every child that enters our classrooms deserve and is entitled to a quality education, should be adequately prepared through daily instruction, be able to show progress or growth, and finally, pass their content classes, pass the Georgia Milestones, and be promoted to the next grade.

**Student Expectations and Responsibilities**

* Each student will be respectful to their teachers, classmates, administration, and other school personnel.
* Each student will follow the Richmond County School System’s Code of Conduct, school rituals and routines (PAWS), and classroom expectations.
* Each student will be properly prepared each day for class instruction with the required textbooks and supplies.
* Each student will be responsible and accountable for their choices and actions daily.

**Content Area Grading Policy**

Students in 4th grade will receive numerical grades at the end of each 6-week grading period in each content area. There will be two Progress Reports sent home each semester and students will receive a report card at the end of each semester.

**A 90 – 100**

**B 80 – 89**

**C 75 – 79**

**D 70 – 74**

**F 0 – 69**

\*\*Parent and guardians will be informed promptly when their child is not making adequate progress for the grading period.

**Attendance and Make – Up Work Due to an Excused Absence**

When students are absent from school, a doctor’s excuse or parent note (**only five parent notes are allowed per school year**) is required for the absence to be excused. Students are responsible for obtaining any missed work and assignments when they are absent. All missed assignments due to an **excused absence** from class will be made up within the designated time agreed upon by the student and teacher (usually within five (5) school days).

**Best Time to Be Reached by a Parent or Guardian**

The school phone number and each 4th grade teacher’s e-mail address is at the top of the syllabus. Parents are encouraged to join Class Dojo as well to stay in contact with the teachers. Parent conferences are scheduled during the teacher’s planning period or after school. If parents and guardians have questions or concerns, please feel free to call or send an e-mail. E-mail messages are checked periodically during the day, and e-mail responses are usually sent by the end of the school day. Phone calls are returned within twenty-four hours of the call being received.

**English Language Arts and Reading**: In 4th grade, the major focus is READING and COMPREHENSION (literacy). Students will be given opportunities daily to improve and enhance their reading and writing skills through:

* Reading various books and text (nonfiction, informational, fiction, and poetry)
* Learning and understanding key terms and concepts associated with reading, comprehension, and writing
* Quote accurately from a text
* Draw evidence from texts to support writing
* Independent reading
* Engage in collaborative discussions
* Refer to details and make inferences
* Determine theme and summarize
* Determine main idea and summarize
* Describe story elements
* Point of view
* Compare and contrast
* Firsthand and secondhand accounts
* Vocabulary
* Narrative writing, Informational writing, Opinion writing, and Poetry writing

**Mathematics:** In 4th grade**,** students study using place value as well as understanding and solving word problems through comprehension and calculations. Students will be given an opportunity daily through whole group instruction, guided practice, small group instruction, student-centered activities, and independent practice to:

* Number sense routines/Number talks
* Place value and digit positions using base-ten numerals
* Add, subtract, and round numbers within 100,000
* Use various strategies to solve problems including the use of manipulatives
* Problem-solving with money, intervals of time, and metric measurements
* Generate numbers and shape patterns that follow a rule
* Explore factor pairs, prime numbers, and composite numbers
* Learn multiplication facts
* Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers by one- and two-digit numbers
* Solve multi-step problems and write constructed responses explaining how the problem was solved (mathematical reasoning)
* Equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with mixed numbers
* Comparing decimals, elapsed time, dot plots, and real-life problem solving
* Recognize, draw, and measure angles
* Points, perpendicular and parallel lines, symmetry, 2D shapes, area, and perimeter

**Science**: In 4th grade, students study weather, planets and stars, moon phases, states of water, ecosystems, sound, forces, light reflection, and simple machines.

* Introduction to science
* Lab safety
* Scientific method
* Cloud formation
* Weather instruments
* Moon phases
* Technological advances in space
* Stars and planets
* Earth’s orbit and tilt
* Light reflection
* States of water and the water cycle
* Weather and climate
* Ecosystems
* Food chains and webs
* Strength and speed of sound
* Forces: balanced, unbalanced, and gravitational
* Simple machines

**Social Studies:** In 4th grade social studies, students study American history from the American Revolution to Reconstruction.

* Causes, events, and results of the American Revolution
* The Declaration of Independence
* The Articles of Confederation
* The Constitutional Convention
* The Preamble
* United States government and checks and balances
* The First Amendment
* The Bill of Rights
* The War of 1812
* Westward Expansion
* Abolitionist and Suffragist Movements
* Causes, major events, and effects of the Civil War
* Reconstruction
* Economics