**Philosophy:** All students can learn and all students are entitled to a high-quality education. Students learn best when they approach their education with a Growth Mindset. The fourth-grade teaching team encourages students to develop a growth mindset by helping students understand the mistakes they make as they work toward their goals, will help them learn. We have high expectations for all students and celebrate all progress students make. Teachers use data to drive instruction, meaning through a variety of assessments teachers determine what type of academic support is needed to help students meet the learning goals. Students are involved in monitoring their own progress and will maintain a student data notebook to chart their personal growth.

**Description:** All fourth-grade students receive instruction in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Social Studies, and science on a daily basis. All instruction is based upon the *Georgia* *Standards of Excellence (GSE)*. The GSE outlines what students are expected to know and do at each grade level.

Students will also participate in specials classes each week: P.E., Music, Computer Science, and STEM (one day with Science and Technology focus; the other day with Engineering and Math focus).

**Major Course Goals (from the RCK12 Course Descriptions)**

**Math:** Fourth grade math focuses upon addition and subtraction of whole numbers within 1,000,000, Multiplication and division of whole numbers using strategies (4 digits by 1digit and 2-digit numbers), fraction equivalents and operations with fractions, fractions and decimals, geometry, and measurement.

**Assessment and Grading**

Students will be given pretests at the start of each unit of study. These will be used to determine how to proceed with instruction. Throughout the unit students will be given a variety of assessments (both written and performance based) to determine progress. This year we will begin *standards-based grading.* This means that student work will be compared to the appropriate standard from the GSE and the student rating will be based upon how much of the standard has been met. There are four levels: 1) Beginner 2) Developing 3) Proficient 4) Distinguished. Level 4 is given only when the students work goes beyond fourth grade level expectation. Rubrics have been created for each standard that is taught. The rubric describes what is expected to reach the proficient (on grade level) rating.

**Classroom Expectations**

All students are expected to attend school regularly and abide by all rules in the Student Code of Conduct. They are expected to work respectfully with peers and adults and put forth their best efforts.

**Extra Help**

There are a number of supports in place for fourth grade students. All students receive Tier One instruction at grade level. Students also receive Tier Two instruction in small groups according to their particular needs (for example, Math groups). Fourth grade classes are supported by an augmented teacher that will come into the class one or two days a week and work with students as needed in ELA and math; this is our Early Intervention Program model to bring students up to grade level. For those students that have been identified with special needs, Special Education teachers (and/or paraprofessionals) will provide supports as outlined in the student’s IEP (Individualized Education Plan). Additionally, students that have been identified as gifted will participate in the ACE program.

**Contacting the Teacher**

For face to face conferences with the teacher, please make an appointment. Teacher planning time and after dismissal duty. Much of this time is already scheduled for trainings and meetings. The school phone number is (706) 796-4918. Teachers will return phone calls as soon as possible. For faster responses, please contact teachers via email or Class Dojo. If you have not yet connected to Class Dojo and need instructions, please let your child’s teacher know as soon as possible. Fourth grade teachers’ emails are listed below.

Mr. Nessmith: [Nessmch@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:Nessmch@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Henderson: [hendevo@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:hendevo@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Jacobs:  [jacobka2@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:jacobka2@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)

Mrs. Welcher-Green: [welchki@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us](mailto:welchki@boe.richmond.k12.ga.us)