Welcome! Please complete these tasks before leaving tonight.

1.) Complete the pink contact information on the card on your child’s desk. I use this for routine communication, as well as emergencies.

3.) Sign up for volunteer opportunities (media center and Insect Project materials). Sign up forms are on the hexagon table.

4.) Sign up for any articles or forms you would like a paper copy of. Sign up form and articles are on the shelf by the windows.

5.) Read about Mrs. Smith and some of the things your child wants you to know about fourth grade so far in their writer’s notebooks. Write a note to your child in his or her writer’s notebook (decorated with images) telling them about your fourth grade experience, or your hopes and dreams for him or her in fourth grade.
Curriculum Night 2019

Mrs. Smith Grade 4 Room 183

Agenda

7:45 - 8:00  Classroom Exploration & Task Completion

8:00 - 8:30  Teacher Presentation
Mrs. Smith outside the classroom
Mrs. Smith’s family.
Ms. Tryon - K-5 Music
Ms. Potter - 1-5 Librarian
Ms. Fagone - Tech
Mrs. DiCenzo - Art
Mrs. “Kuz”meski - P.E.
Mr. Darling - P.E
Ms. Reichheld - Literacy
Ms. Weeks - Guidance
Ms. Silva - Math Coach
Should it stay or should it go?

**To Leave at School:**
- Your child’s writer’s notebook
- Contact Information Card
- Original copies of articles

**To Take Home:**
- Homework Procedures
- Scholastic Book Order Information
- Curriculum Brochure
Make sure your child has these posted at home:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day of the Week</th>
<th>Special/Specialist</th>
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| Monday          | 10:35-11:15 Spanish with Senora Bergyme  
2:00-2:40 PE with Ms. Kusz |
| Tuesday         | 2:00-2:40 Art with Ms. DiCenzo |
| Wednesday       | 10:35-11:15 Media with Ms. Potter  
1:15-1:55 PE with Ms. Kusz |
| Thursday        | 8:55-9:35 Spanish with Senora Bergyme  
9:40-10:20 Chorus with Ms. Tryan |
| Friday          | 10:40-11:20 Music with Ms. Tryan |

**Homework Procedures**

Below are some procedures for homework in our class this year. Please take some time to read it through with a parent. Then post it in your homework spot.

Homework will be assigned on Mondays (or Tuesdays if there is a holiday) and Wednesdays. Monday’s homework is due Wednesday morning, and Wednesday’s homework is due Friday morning. That gives you two days to get your homework done, so plan accordingly.

It is your responsibility to bring the completed homework assignments with your name clearly written on it the morning it is due. It is not your parent’s responsibility, so you will not be allowed to call home to have a parent bring in your homework.

At home, be sure to:

- Set aside a specific time for homework each night (plan to spend 20-25 minutes reading and 20 minutes on other assignments.)
- Find a quiet place to work that is well-lit and stocked with materials.
- Practice independently. (It is important for us to see what you have done on your own. If you are stuck, bring it in the day before it is due and ask your teachers for help in the morning.)
- Pack up your backpack with your homework folder and any assigned workbooks (spelling, math, etc.) before you go to bed, so you won’t forget it each morning.

If you do not have your homework you miss out on an independent practice time at home, as well as important learning time in class when we review assignments. For this reason, you will need to find time to make up any missed homework the next afternoon/evening and return it the next morning. This will be in addition to your regularly assigned homework. If missing homework becomes a problem, you may end up missing part of recess, or may need to meet before or after school with a teacher. If the problem is not solved we will need to have a meeting with you and a parent to find a solution.

Homework Club will be held every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:05-8:30 during morning work. This is a time for you to get some help with homework if you couldn’t figure it out at home. Your teachers will answer any questions, practice a problem with you, and then help you finish at home and bring it in the next day.

We welcome parent notes if a particular assignment was difficult or if it took an unusually long time to complete.
Thank You to the PTC for Providing Funds to Support...

- Insect Fair Materials
- Colonial Day Supplies
- Teacher Grants (noise canceling headphones, alternative seating)
- Special programs and performances (UDA, Let’s Build, Plimoth Plantation Visitors)
Big Events of Fourth Grade

Insect Fair **Thursday, November 7, 8:30-9:00 a.m.**

Harvard Peabody Museum Trip Late Fall TBA

Grade 4 Open Houses: **Friday, January 17th 8:05-8:30** (prior to the winter concert) and late May TBA

Boston Symphony Orchestra Feb/March

Plimoth Plantation Late May/Early June

Colonial Day **Wednesday, June 3, 8:30-12:00** (early release day)

Opportunities to join band, work for The Meadows, and join Student Council
Social Emotional Learning

- Responsive Classroom Components: Student Lead Morning Meeting, Apology of Action, Guided Discovery, Academic Choice.
- Second Step Empathy Training and Active Anti-Bullying Curriculum.
- Understanding ourselves as learners: growth mindset, learning preferences, goal setting.
- Instruction in self directed movement breaks. Classwide movement breaks are taken regularly.
- Support your child by encouraging them to talk to me, send me an email, or seek out a trusted adult with whom we can all communicate.
CREATIVE THINKERS & PROBLEM SOLVERS
Raise questions driven by curiosity; analyze relevant information; express creativity; design & innovate solutions

COMMUNICATORS AND COLLABORATORS
Listen effectively; articulate ideas using a variety of communication strategies & skills; interact with others respectfully & productively; contribute to teamwork

SOCIALLY & CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE CONTRIBUTORS
Understand & respect diversity; act with empathy & courage to ensure equity, access, and an anti-racist culture; address local & global issues through civic & community engagement

RESPONSIBLE AND RESILIENT INDIVIDUALS
Take responsibility for actions; make healthy choices to achieve physical & emotional wellbeing; self advocate; persist to overcome personal challenges; adapt to change

EMPOWERED LEARNERS
Discover and integrate content from multiple disciplines; engage in self-directed learning; use technology to support learning & navigate a digital world
The Portrait, a new vision for Needham’s students, was developed over the past year & a half and involved over 50 teachers, students, parents, & community members.

The Portrait is based on five key competencies and is future-focused, student-focused, and creates a framework for educational and academic excellence based on a commitment to equity for all children.

In June 2019, the Needham School Committee approved a five-year strategic plan designed to support the Portrait.

The 2019-20 school year is the first year of implementation, and all schools and staff will explore priority areas to ensure this new vision becomes a reality for all children.

Parents may find additional information about the Portrait and strategic plan on the district’s website and in the 2019 Performance Report being mailed to all families in the next several weeks.
Communication Between School and Home

● Please contact the office for change of plans in the middle of the day.

● Reach out to me if your family or child’s normal routine is disrupted (loss of a family member, pet, moving, new sibling, etc.) as these things can impact school behavior and functioning.

● I try to keep our classroom website updated with important dates, resources, and general guidelines for homework and projects. More often I send reminders home by tweeting. Please follow me @hsmithgrade4.
4-S Homework Overview

- Assigned Monday and Wednesday total of 40-45 min per night.

- Reading every night for 20-25 min.

- Math papers, online practice, reading response combined should at most another 20 min. to complete.

- Calendars/checklists will be provided for long term projects.
Homework Club Is...

- During school hours Tuesday and Thursday 8:05-8:30.
- An opportunity to ask questions that students couldn't answer at home.
- A chance for students to check with a teacher to make sure they have completed an assignment correctly.
- A whole class activity, all are invited and encouraged to attend.

At Home Families can:

- Help their child troubleshoot difficult homework the night they receive it so they know if they should bring it to homework club.
- Help their child recognize frustration and after calm, make a plan to succeed.
Long Term Projects

- Exemplars/models will be shared with students in school before starting.

- Guidelines will be given to students at the beginning of the project and posted on the classroom website for families to reference or to be printed in case they are misplaced.

- This information will include rubrics, calendars, and checklists. All resources will be accessible through the classroom website.
Reading Curriculum Overview

Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop

- Components of the Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop include reading and writing aloud, shared reading and writing, guided reading and writing, and independent reading and writing.

Reader’s Workshop Genres

- Traditional Literature (fables, myths, folktales, legends), Poetry, Fiction (mystery, realistic, historical, drama, simple fantasy), Non-fiction (biography, informational, memoir).

Reading Areas of Focus

- Building a Reading Life, Realistic Fiction and Character Development. Responding to Reading (writing, test prep, book clubs), Informational Texts and Reading for Research, Historical Fiction.
Writing Curriculum Overview

Writer’s Workshop Genres

- Launching Writer's Notebooks
- Narrative (personal narrative, fiction, poetry)
- Opinion/Essay Writing
- Informational/Explanatory Writing

Word Study

- Individual words from writing & commonly misspelled words
- Spelling strategies for multi-syllabic words (prefixes and suffixes)
- Parts of speech
Math Curriculum Overview

- We use a combination of ThinkMath!, Engage New York, and Common Core math curricula.
- Units of Study: operations within the base ten system - estimating/rounding, adding and subtracting numbers up to 6 digits, multiplication and division (facts to 12x12), partial product multiplication and division using up to 4 digit numbers, 2-dimensional geometry, fractions, decimals, algebraic thinking.
- Math Homework includes both online and worksheet practice of concepts previously taught in class.
- ST Math new this year! No more Xtramath!
Science and Social Studies Curriculum

Science Units of Study

- Insects
- Changing Earth
- Light and Shadow

Social Studies Units

- Native Americans of North America
- Age of Exploration
- Colonial America