

September 2019

Dear Students and Families,



Welcome to fourth grade at Apollo Elementary School! My name is Marie Smith and I am delighted to be your teacher for the 2019-2020 school year! I look forward to learning more about my new group of students and their families and sharing many unique learning opportunities throughout the year.

Let me tell you a little more about myself. This will be my 12th year of teaching and I love to learn and challenge myself as an educator. I have taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and Sociology and a Masters in Teaching. Besides teaching, my other passion is my family. My husband (Brandon), and my two children (Adrian, age 13, attending 8th grade at Maywood and Preston, age 7, attending 2nd grade at Maple Hills) keep me quite busy. We love to spend time traveling, playing board games and video games and watching movies together. We have been residents of Renton for the last 13+ years and I love being able to teach in my own community.

Fourth grade is a very pivotal year, both academically and socially. The curriculum is both rigorous and exciting. Our class will be challenging, yet fun, and I will guide your child toward producing his/her best each and every day. As fourth graders, they will be the "big kids" of the school and the younger students will look up to them as examples. This is such an exciting time in your child's life, as they gain more independence and continue to form who they are as individuals.

Parents, please feel free to contact me by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

Let's work together to make this a great year!

Marie Smith
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Answers to Your Frequently Asked Questions...

Welcome to a wonderful fourth grade year! As we look forward to this new school year, I am glad to have this opportunity to let you know some of the ways that you can help your child have a successful fourth grade experience. I hope that this will answer many questions that may be on your mind. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

9:05 Classroom is Open

9:15-9:25 Warm Up

9:25-9:55 Specialist

- Monday: PE
- Tuesday: Library
- Wednesday: Music
- Thursday: PE
- Friday: Music

9:55-11:15 Math

11:15-12:15 Writing

12:15-12:55 Recess/Lunch

12:55-2:20 Reading

2:20-2:40 Unit Studies

2:40-3:00 Recess

3:00-3:30 Unit Studies

3:30-3:40 Planners/Pack Up/Clean

3:40 Dismissal

ALLERGIES:

Please note that this is a peanut-free classroom. Thank you for taking this into account when packing snacks to keep our students safe.

SNACKS:

We will have a daily snack time before lunch. Donations of peanut-free community snacks are always welcome and appreciated. Please pack your child a healthy snack every day, such as crackers or fruit. The snack should be eaten in approximately five minutes. Please do not send juice or anything requiring utensils. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to class daily, as we have a freshwater dispenser in the room.

PLANNERS:

Every day before students go home, as a class, we will fill out our planners. Students are required to copy down all homework, announcements, and assignments given to them in class. Please check and sign these planners nightly to ensure your son or daughter has completed all the assigned tasks. You will also see that either I or another student will have signed off the planner to check for accuracy.

FRIDAY FOLDERS:

This year, students will bring home their Apollo take home folder each day to transport homework or any forms that need to be returned to school. In addition, every Friday, your child will take home their accumulated papers from the office/PTA and any corrected classwork and homework.

HOMEWORK:

Homework will generally be given Monday through Thursday and will typically include independent reading and math homework that corresponds to what we learned in class that day. Homework is due the day after it is assigned, unless specified otherwise.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

Apollo students are expected to follow our schoolwide procedures:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

GRADING POLICY/CRITERIA:

Standards-based grades will be as follows:

- 4: Extra Effort (Exceeds 4th grade standard)
- 3: You've Got it (Meets 4th grade standard)
- 2: Keep Working (Approaching 4th grade standard)
- 1: Try Again (Below 4th grade standard)

Please be aware that a "4" does NOT equate to an "A" or 100%. A "4" indicates that your child has gone above and beyond in meeting the grade level standard and can apply his/her knowledge in new and sophisticated ways. Your child is meeting grade level standard if he/she earns a "3" or above.

STATE TESTING:

Fourth graders will take the statewide Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) in English language arts and math, in the spring. Throughout the year, we will be emphasizing effective test taking strategies and will be practicing as much as we can to be successful test takers.

BIRTHDAYS:

Parents are asked to refrain from bringing in birthday treats in compliance with the Issaquah School District Nutrition and Wellness Regulation. As an alternative, the fourth-grade team hosts a month birthday lunch where your child and a buddy will get to enjoy lunch with the teachers and celebrate with a popsicle. We will also celebrate and acknowledge birthdays in the classroom with nonfood items.