

Welcome to Mrs. Blake's 4th Grade Class!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the 2017/18 school year. I am very excited about our 4th grade class. Our first four days went well! What a nice group of students you have sent me. We have a fabulous year ahead of us as we explore and question the world around us. I am honored to be your child's teacher and take my job very seriously. For your child to get the most out of this year, I need you to join me in support as we endeavor to give them the tools they will need to live a happy, successful life.

Homework:

To make sure your child has a successful year it is important they have a regular homework time and a quiet place to work. Homework usually consists of: spelling, multiplication math facts, and reading. **It will be sent home on Monday, and only the signed reading paper will be due on Friday.** I do not give homework over weekends or holidays. Reading each night for 20 minutes has proven to improve fluency and help your child enjoy success in life; as reading is tied to everything. *If at any time you do not understand any part of the homework, please write me a note. Your child will get credit for at least trying.*

Monday Folders:

Weekly papers, including the homework will come home each Monday. Please sign and send back items in the **"Return to School"** pocket.

Grading

Grades will be posted on Power School. Information and login information will be sent home so you will be able to easily check your child's progress. We will be using a Standards Referenced reporting system for grades 4-6th, which will closely resemble the 3rd grade reporting system. The scoring guide follows.

Standards Referenced Scoring Scale	
4	Student exceeds all skills within the standard by demonstrating more complex understanding.
3	Student demonstrates all skills within the standard.
2	Student partially demonstrates skills within the standard.
1	With help, student partially demonstrates skills within the standard.
0	Even with help, skills within the standard are not demonstrated.

Classroom Expectations:

- Be safe
- Be responsible
- Be respectful

Consequences:

- I will always give students a verbal warning to help them get back on track.
- Next, the student's name goes on the board as a visual warning.
- A checkmark next to the name means 5 min. of recess is owed.
- Two checkmarks mean 10 minutes of recess is owed.
- Three checkmarks mean a Stop and Think, and call home to parents right then, or after school will occur, along with the time owed.
- Any student with serious or dangerous behavior will immediately be sent to the office.

Field Trips:

These exciting adventures are an extension of classroom learning. We will need parent drivers and chaperones. I will send home field trip information well in advance of an up coming trip. *All* field trips cover core curriculum areas of learning. Field trips are a privilege and school rules apply.

Volunteers and Chaperones:

In order to volunteer in the school, for any reason, or chaperone field trips, you must be cleared through the District Office. *Please sign up to be a school volunteer on the KPBSD website. Go to the Volunteer Tab and follow the directions. You are most welcome to come into school and use our computers. Debbie, our secretary, can show you where to fill out the form on line. We covet your help this year. Sterling Elementary is a wonderful place to be, and we appreciate all of our volunteers! It takes 2 weeks to get approved to be a volunteer, so please do this ASAP!*

Items needed:

Snack

We have snack each day. **Crackers, Granola Bars, and pretzels** are acceptable snacks. Cheerios or other similar type cereal is also allowed. Please, no pop, candy or cookies! I have provided snack for the first few weeks of school. *After that, I count on families to provide bags of snack for the class during the year. Please send in something to share.*

Recess:

Students go outside UNLESS it is -10° or colder. That means if it's raining- they will go out. Please provide adequate outerwear for your child. This means feet, too. Boots, hats, coats, gloves, and snow pants are very important in Alaska. *If you can't provide for your child, please let me know, and I will do my best to find a way to get what's needed. Please label your child's gear.*

Absences

I can't stress enough how important it is for your child to be at school every day unless ill. In elementary school all absences are counted as unexcused. If you go on vacation, please give me advance warning. I will talk to you about what is expected from your child. *If your child is struggling in an academic area, please try to schedule trips that have the least impact on direct teaching instruction. Your child's well being is my top priority. When they are upset, it affects their ability to learn. If for any reason your family experiences a change, either good or bad, please send a note. It is very helpful to have a heads up so I can better serve your child.*

Means of Contact:

If you have questions or concerns about your child, please feel free to contact me in a way that works best for you. You can come in person, before or after school, or call me at school 262-4944. We will also be using the REMIND APP at school this year. You can text to:

www.remind.com/join.e2k38b to join our 4th grade class. Or email at: e2k38b@mail.remind.com

Please send me a text or email with just a "Hello" so I have you in my address book. That way we can stay in touch and let each other know right away if there are issues needing care.

It is going to be a wonderful year of learning! I am so glad I get to spend my days with your child, and I look forward to partnering with you to help them succeed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Blake