

# The Communicator

Mrs. Harris

August-September 2018



Hello Families!

Welcome to a brand new school year! I am excited and ready to get started!

Mrs. Harris's Bio:

Bachelor's Degree- Blackburn College – K-9 Education Certification with a concentration in Political Science

Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Administration

Passion-improving our students' reading/writing levels while inspiring lifelong readers and writers 😊

Fourth grade has a familiar team look this year!

Mrs. Hainsfurther- Reading/Language Arts (Reading, Language Arts, Spelling)

Mrs. Harris-Reading/Language Arts (Reading, Language Arts, Spelling)

Mrs. Lewis-Resource Teacher

Mrs. Mulacek-Math

Mrs. Roesch-Science and Social Studies

We are departmentalized and students generally love switching classes, but for some this will take some getting used to and we expect that.

Students will record homework assignments in their agendas daily, and assignments are posted on the Fourth Grade link every day. Grades are accessible through

Skyward and teachers also have websites that can be referenced. Most importantly though, please talk with your child about his/her school day!

Research shows that the true ticket to academic achievement is reading outside of class. In fourth grade students are required to read at least one 3 point Accelerated Reader (AR) novel (fiction or nonfiction) each month. The first due date is Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. Your child can fulfill this requirement by reading to you, with you, or independently. An AR letter outlining the program was sent home for your signature.

Please note: Spelling lists will usually be handed out on Friday and written in your child's agenda. Tests are given on Thursday. If Monday is a holiday the test will be on Friday.

We are so fortunate to receive *Scholastic News (SN)* every 7-14 days. SN is great nonfiction (informational) reading practice and will be going home to be read with an adult, checked over, and returned within 2 days after assigned. This will count as a Reading grade and students will be encouraged to highlight the answer within the text, and note the question number it answers next to the highlighting. This will hopefully inspire students to reread, read closely, avoid guessing, and to seek answers while deepening comprehension and increasing knowledge. Happy reading!

Fourth graders watch CNN 10 Student News daily for 10 minutes to keep current on events happening around the world, and we integrate geography as well.

We also suggest making [www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com) a favorite on your computer for daily current events. Just enter your child's most recent Lexile score and the reading level will be adjusted to a level appropriate for your child. Students who read outside of class score higher on achievement tests than those who do not read outside of class. What great nonfiction (informational) reading practice this site can provide as well as thought provoking topics to discuss after!

Upcoming dates to remember:

September 3: Labor Day-no school

September 7: Grandparents' Day from 9-10:30

9:00-10:00 Classroom Visits and at 10:00 there will be a Music Program

in the gym. We are looking forward to meeting the grandparents!

September 7<sup>th</sup>- Midterm, with Progress Reports going home on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>

September 10-14 is Book Fair Week-students can shop throughout the week or at Open House

September 11: PTO meeting at 6:00

September 12- 11:30 Dismissal for School Improvement

September 13: Open House from 5:30-7 and Book Fair (Family Buying Night)

September 28: September AR is due on or before this day. This is Homecoming so we have a 1:30 dismissal, the parade is at 3 and the football game starts at 7.

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and having a great fourth grade school year! Working together makes your child more successful, so if you have any questions, or concerns, please let me know.

Thank you,

Mrs. Harris