

The Communicator

Mrs. Harris

September 2019



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

Masters Degree in Education – Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville

Administration Endorsement – Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville

Fourth grade has a familiar team look this year!

Mrs. Hainsfurther- Reading/Language Arts/Social Studies/Spelling in POD HM
(Hainsfurther/Mulacek)

Mrs. Mulacek-Math/Science/Spelling in POD HM

Mrs. Lewis-Resource Teacher

Mrs. Harris-Reading/Language Arts/Social Studies/Spelling in POD HR
(Harris/Roesch)

Mrs. Roesch-Math/Science/Spelling in POD HR

We are departmentalized and students generally love switching classes, but for some this will take some getting used to and we expect that. In the beginning they may come home frustrated, but please keep encouraging them that it will all work out.

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 Monday, September 30th. 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 be handed out on Friday, with tests given on the following Thursday.

We are excited to have a new reading series! “*Journeys* is a research-based, comprehensive English Language Arts program designed to build the skills students need to become literate, lifelong learners while developing a true love of reading and writing.” Home Letters will arrive for each 5 day lesson and we ask that you please practice the ten target vocabulary words attached, along with the other skills and activities listed. Vocabulary tests will be given for each lesson. Thank you in advance for your support!

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 Social Studies 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 often 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 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, and thought provoking topics to discuss after!

Finally, I strongly stress that for your child to reach his/her fullest potential is by working together. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email me.

Upcoming dates to remember:

Every Wednesday is an earlier (1:30) dismissal

September 19 – Online book orders due. Let me know if you have any questions.

September 20-Homecoming

September 23-Beginner band meeting at 6:30 in the cafeteria

September 23-September 27 is Book Fair Week-students can shop throughout the week or at Open House on the 24th

September 24: 6:00-7:15 Open House and Book Fair (Family Buying Night)

September 30: September AR is due on or before this day.

October 1-Fall Pictures and Progress Reports sent home

October 11th-Grandparent's Day starting at 9:00

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and having a great fourth grade school year!

Thank you,

Mrs. Harris