Welcome to 4th Grade

A nurturing team where every student is inspired to learn and empowered to excel!
Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Goals, Mission, Vision
- Curriculum
- Assessment
- Chorus
- PBIS
- Staying in Touch
- Other Important Information
- Questions or comments
Meet the 4th Grade Team

Classroom teachers:
- Mrs. Kim Dean
- Mrs. Julie Garris
- Mrs. Kris Runner
- Ms. Sara Weiser
Meet the 4th Grade Team

Instructional Assistant/Paraeducator:
» Mrs. Carol McQuaid

Special Educators:
» Mrs. Mary Scott
» Mrs. Dawn Garvey, paraeducator
Meet the 4th Grade Team

Students may also work with…

✈ Mr. Polack (GT math)
✈ Mrs. Louzan (Enrichment/Instructional Seminars)
✈ Mrs. Twigg (Instrumental Music)
✈ Mrs. Curry (Chorus)
✈ Mrs. Robey (Reading Specialist)
✈ Mrs. McKenna (ESOL)
✈ Mrs. Tsiamis (Speech)
Team 4 is a place where...

- All students can learn, grow, and progress
- All students feel safe and supported
- All students feel challenged and inspired
- All students feel respected and empowered
- Families feel engaged in their children’s progress
- Students are moving toward college and career readiness
Our Mission and Vision:

Our Vision
"Every student is inspired to learn and empowered to excel."

Our Mission
"We cultivate a vibrant learning community that prepares students to thrive in a dynamic world"

Source: Howard County Public School System
Rockburn Elementary School

Source: Howard County Public School System
HCPSS Systemic Expectations

- Know our students and the differentiated supports in place to ensure their success
- Ensure our students receive exemplary instruction that prepares them for college and careers
- Have a process in place for continuously monitoring student progress
- Develop a relationship with students and their families

Source: Howard County Public School System
Fourth Grade Curriculum

What your students will learn this year
Language Arts Curriculum

Reading Genres
- Realistic Fiction
- Informational Text
- Functional Text
- Historical Fiction
- Drama
- Myths & Legends
- Poetry
- Mystery
- Paired Texts
The Common Core State Standards for Language Arts require an increased focus on:

- complex text
- close, analytic reading
- text-dependent questions
- text-based evidence
- balance of text types
- writing from sources
- academic vocabulary
- speaking & listening
- short, focused research
- integration of standards
Close, analytic reading stresses engaging with a text of sufficient complexity directly and examining its meaning thoroughly and methodically, encouraging students to read and reread deliberately.
Rigorous, text-dependent questions require students to demonstrate that they can follow the details of what is explicitly stated and make valid claims and inferences that square with the evidence in the text.

PARCC Model Content Frameworks, 2011
Text-based evidence

- Students stay grounded in the text, responding to high quality text-dependent questions with evidence-based responses.
- Students will respond to reading by writing evidence based essays.
We use several types of reading instruction in 4th grade including *read-aloud books* and activities, whole-group *focus lessons*, small group *guided reading* and *strategy instruction*, and *one on one conferences*. 
Building Independence

During the early weeks of school, we will devote time to putting in place a framework for productive independent work where students apply skills taught in whole class, small group and one on one instructional settings.

Students will practice building independence and stamina with activities that may include Read to Self, Work on Writing, or Word Work.
Writing Curriculum

- Writing in Response to Reading
- Memoir
- Research Report
- Book Review
- Functional Writing: Poster/Advertisement
- Opinion Writing
- Letter Writing
- Poetry
Writing Process

- Immersion in a genre through a variety of texts
- Teacher modeling
- Pre-writing (brainstorming, graphic organizers)
- Rough draft
- Conferencing, revising, editing
- Final copy
Word Study Instruction

County-wide Building Vocabulary program continues the foundation put in place last year.
Word Parts are the Key!

- The English language has approximately 2,000,000 words
- Technology contributes 20,000 new words per year
- School texts and reading materials include more than 180,000 different words
- Over 60% of the words students encounter in their reading have recognizable word parts
Why Use This Approach?

- 90% of English words of two or more syllables are of Greek or Latin origin.
- Most academic vocabulary is derived from Latin and Greek origins.
- Knowing the roots (bases, prefixes, suffixes) helps children build independence upon encountering new words.
Word Study

Word Study instruction will take place in the classroom.

The weekly classroom activities:
“Meet the Root, Combine and Create, Read and Reason, Extend and Explore”

You can support word study at home by encouraging your child to tell you the week’s word study patterns and searching for related words together as you encounter them through the week.
Spelling Grades

Students will be graded on applied spelling used in finished work (writing assignments, weekly homework responses, written responses in class).

Students are expected to spell correctly the first 300 sight words taught in Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade, as well as words taught as content vocabulary.
Math Curriculum

4th, 5th, and GT Math
All classes apply the Standards for Mathematical Practice

- There are eight mathematical practices included in the Common Core.
- These eight practices remain consistent from grade level to grade level.
What Will Our Students Learn?

Grade 4

• Problem Solving and Application
• Place Value
• Prime and Composite numbers
• Multi-digit Addition/Subtraction
• Multi-digit Multiplication/Division
• Fractions
• Decimals
• Area/Perimeter
• Geometric lines and angles
What Will Our Students Learn?

Grade 5

- Problem Solving and Application
- Decimals
- Multiplication/Division
- Fractions
- Volume Measurement
- Quadrilaterals and Coordinate Grids
- Numerical Expressions
What Will Our Students Learn?

Grade 6 (GT Math)

• Problem Solving and Application
• Division
• Decimals and Fractions
• Integers
• Ratio and Proportion
• Expressions and Equations
• Area and Volume
• Statistics and Probability
SMART Pages
https://smart.wikispaces.hcpss.org/SMART+Pages

SMART Pages Welcome

What Your Child Will Learn:
- Kindergarten Common Core
- Grade 1 Common Core
- Grade 2 Common Core
- Grade 3 Common Core
- Grade 4 Common Core
- Grade 5 Common Core
- Grade 6 Common Core

Mobile Apps
- iTunes
- Android

For Parents:
- Vision 2018: HCPSS Strategic Plan
- Top 10 Things to Know about Common Core (MSDE)
- Information about the Common Core State Standards
- College and Career Advantage
- Basic Facts Program
- Resources for Parents

What are the SMART pages?
SMART standards for Student (and Family) Mathematics, Activities, Resources and Tools. They are intended to help families find information and resources to support mathematics instruction in Howard County. Use the links in the gray column to visit grade levels and resources.

What Your Child Will Learn (by grade level)
- Specific standards
- Vocabulary
- Activities for home
- Online Links

Mobile Apps that Support Mathematics

Information for Parents:
- Common Core State Standards
- Assessment Information
- College and Career Advantage
- Online and Print Resources

Please contact John SanGiovanni with requests for additional information to include.
MARYLAND:

- The First People
- Early Settlements
- Colonial Economics
- Maryland in Business (includes financial literacy component)
Social Studies Curriculum

- New curriculum!
- Maintains our previous focus on the state of Maryland, the first Americans, and colonial Maryland, while adding new information on financial literacy and commerce.
- Post-colonial topics such as the War of 1812 and the Civil War will now be taught in fifth grade.
Social Studies Curriculum

New format!

In the past, students used Social Studies packets. The packets are gone and the lessons use a variety of different formats for student work and assessment.
Science Curriculum

New curriculum!

• Energy
• Waves
• Earth’s Systems: Shaping the Earth
• Structure, Function, and Information
Science Curriculum

Curriculum uses Next Generation Science Standards, which emphasize:

- Disciplinary Core Ideas (for example, physical science or earth science)
- Cross-Cutting Concepts (for example, patterns)
- Science & Engineering Practices (for example, interpret data)

Teamwork plays a big role!
Students work often in teams.
Health Curriculum

Units To Be Covered:

- Nutrition and Fitness
- Safety, First Aid, and Injury
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Disease Prevention
Curriculum

http://www.hcpss.org/academics/
Curriculum Enrichment

- Students may opt to take part in instructional seminars at recess time.
- The instructional seminars are School Spirit and We Care.
- Students use their recess time to participate in projects that benefit the school community.
- Any fourth grader may sign up!
Curriculum Enrichment

⇒ Some students may be selected for enrichment units of instruction that support the curriculum.

⇒ Students may be selected for one, two, or none of the enrichment units.
Curriculum Enrichment

- Selection for enrichment units is done across the fourth grade team.
- Student selection criteria include:
  - Reading level and assessments
  - Teacher recommendation
  - Student motivation and independence
  - Student’s ability to be out of the classroom for 90 minutes of instruction each week
Assessments
We are using the MAP Assessments in Reading and Mathematics.

MAP is:

• Computer-adaptive
• Administered in Fall, Winter (selected students), and Spring
• A way to get a snapshot of student performance
Purpose of MAP Assessments

• Measures student growth, both during the school year and across multiple school years.
• Determines instructional strengths and needs, in conjunction with other measures.
• Supports differentiated, Common Core- aligned instruction, in conjunction with other measures.
• Provides academic performance information for parents.
PARCC

- Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career
- Test administration tentative dates:
  Reading, April 12-14
  Math, April 19-22
- Learn more at www.parcconline.org
- Test is taken online. Working with your child on keyboarding skills at home or at a library is a helpful way to prepare for the typed responses.
4th Grade Instrumental Music

Mrs. Twigg
4th Grade Instrumental Music

• Orchestra students started lessons today. They will need instruments starting next week. (Orchestra is made up of students who started a string instrument in 3rd grade and are continuing into 4th grade.)

• Students must register for BAND this year if they wish to play in 5th grade or middle school. Instrumental music is sequential so there will not be beginner lessons in school after this year.

• Visit the RES website to register your child if you did not get an email.

• Students may participate in both orchestra/band and chorus. In fact, Mrs. Twigg encourages students to join the chorus. It will only help their instrumental performance.

• Please contact Mrs. Twigg by email if you have any questions.
4th Grade Chorus

Mrs. Curry
4th Grade Chorus

Looking for students who love to sing!
Goals

- Music Curriculum Goals
- Vocal Goals
- Develop child’s fullest singing potential
Rehearsals

Every Tuesday

2:15-3:00 p.m.
Expectations

- Attend every rehearsal.
- Sing and be an active participant.
- Work together as a team.
- Persevere.
- Make a commitment for the entire school year.
- Perform in two assemblies and two evening concerts.
Concerts

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Thursday, April 7, 2016
Questions

- What if I am a poor singer?
- Do I have to make up work?
- Do I miss any new material?
Thank you!

- Thank you for your support.
- I look forward to working with your child and meeting you at concerts.
- Please return permission slips by Friday, September 4th.

[eileen_curry@hcpss.org]
PBIS: Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

A message from Mrs. Wolf about our focus this year.
PBIS: Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports
HCPSS and Rockburn News & Information

- Video
- Email
- F2F
- Social Media
- Print
MOBILE APP
Rockburn Website

- Announcements and news
- School calendar
- Staff
- Academics
- Student Services
- Student activities, sports, clubs
- Links to essential applications
- And more

res.hcpss.org
SYNERGY
STUDENT
INFORMATION
SYSTEM

CANVAS
LEARNING
SYSTEM

www.hcpss.org/connect
HCPSS Connect

HCPSS Connect provides access to a variety of student information and classroom instructional tools offering personalized communication and timely, relevant, and easily accessible information relating to your student.

Log in to begin monitoring your child’s homework assignments, check schedules and attendance records, view report cards, and more.

HCPSS Connect Updates

HCPSS Connect will be launching in two phases. Phase 1 will focus on updating emergency contact information. Phase 2 activates the remaining classroom and student information functionality.

Phase 1 – 8/17

- Update your child’s emergency contact information. Adjusted contact information will automatically update your HCPSS News subscription. Learn more about HCPSS News →

Phase 2 – 8/31

- Begin to stay up-to-date with your child’s school work and progress.

http://www.hcpss.org/connect
For login and password issues - contact school

For Resources - HCPSS Connect Homepage
Teacher Websites

- We are in the process of moving our websites to the HCPSS Connect portal.
- During the transition, our websites may be unavailable or contain limited information.
- Soon, HCPSS Connect will be a place where you can learn more about our classes and the curriculum.
- We will keep you posted! Look for us soon!
Thank you for joining PTA!

If you have not yet joined, we hope you will do so.

Through your membership in PTA, a class t-shirt for your student will be ordered for events.

PTA is hosting “Rocky on the Run” on Saturday, September 19 – look for details on the PTA website, www.rockburnpta.org
Sunday, October 11, 2015

REGISTER NOW!

www.hcpss5k.com
Other Important Information

We have prepared a hand-out to share:

- How to contact the 4th Grade Team
- Homework expectations
- Our schedule
- Snacks
- Field trips
- Friday Folders
- Parent volunteer opportunities
Thank you for coming!

Any questions?

We look forward to a fun and exciting year of learning!

Mrs. Dean
Mrs. Garris
Mrs. Runner
Ms. Weiser
Mrs. McQuaid
Mrs. Scott
Mrs. Garvey
and the rest of the RES team!