

**Welcome to  
Rockburn  
Elementary  
4th Grade  
2025-2026  
Back to School Night**



**First, let's review  
some general  
information that applies  
county-wide...**



# HCPSS Student Code of Conduct

We view the [code of conduct](#) as a team effort. There are responsibilities for staff, students, families and our community. Let's all do our part to make this year safe and successful for all!



# Receiving Emails and Texts



Utilizing contact information submitted through the Family File, parents and guardians automatically receive emails from HCPSS and our school.

To comply with FCC & wireless carrier requirements, parents/guardians must opt in one time to receiving text message alerts. To confirm that you have opted in, text the word “YES” to 67587 from the cell phone number on file in HCPSS Connect Family File.

**Unsubscribing to either an HCPSS or school email, will remove you from receiving all email messaging - including emergency notifications!**

Please call the front office if you believe you are not receiving emails and/or text messages.

# Receiving Emails and Texts

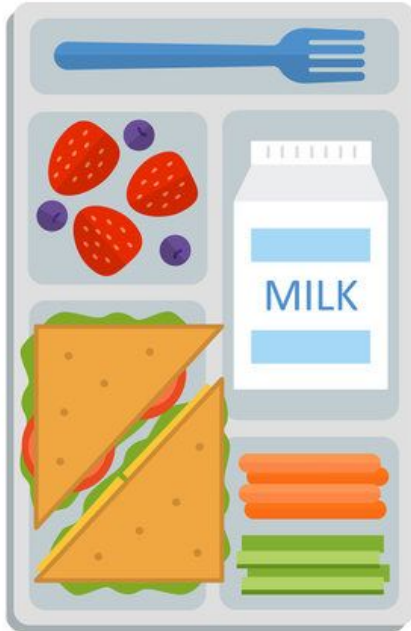
*Please fill  
out your  
family file!*



*Scan me!*

# 2025-2026 Student Meals

**Students whose families do not qualify for free or reduced priced lunch will be required to pay full price.**



## DAILY MEAL PRICES

### Student Breakfast

Breakfast – \$2.00

Reduced Price Breakfast – \$0.00

Free Breakfast – \$0.00

### Student Lunch

Elementary School Lunch – \$2.80

Middle/High School Lunch – \$3.30

Reduced Price Lunch – \$0.00

Free Lunch – \$0.00

Milk (1/2 pint) – \$0.50

# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

**Step 1:** Visit [www.hcpss.org/farms/](http://www.hcpss.org/farms/)

**Step 2:** Click “Apply Online” to **begin** the online application process

## How to Apply

Please submit only one application per household. Families that need computer or language assistance to apply online, please contact your child’s school.

View the [federal income eligibility guidelines](#).

## Online

APPLY ONLINE

(ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES AVAILABLE)

- After the online application has been submitted and reviewed, eligibility notifications will be sent via email/mail.

HCPSS WEBSITE



Howard County Public School System

Getting Started

Household Information

Students

Children (Non-Student)

Signer's Information

## Getting Started

**What you will need to provide during the application process:**

- The name and **current** income of every member of your household
- The school and grade of every student in your household
- Your electronic signature
- (Optional) A valid email address or phone number for district communication about the status of the application.

If you are ready to get started, click the button below to begin the online application process.

BEGIN ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICATION

# Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMs)

Qualifying families can receive free or reduced-cost:



## HCPSS - FAMILY FILE (EMERGENCY FORM)

### MAIN NAVIGATION

- Students
- Parents/Guardians
- Emergency Contacts
- Medical
- Arrival/Departure
- Media
- Data Confidentiality
- Student Creative Work
- PTA Directory / School Directory
- Submit

Thank you. You have successfully submitted the family file information.



Click the below link to download the printed emergency procedure card:

[\[ Download \]](#)

### Free and Discounted Benefits

The FARMs program provides families with significant benefits to help you save money. Eligibility is based on family size and income, and enrollment is confidential.

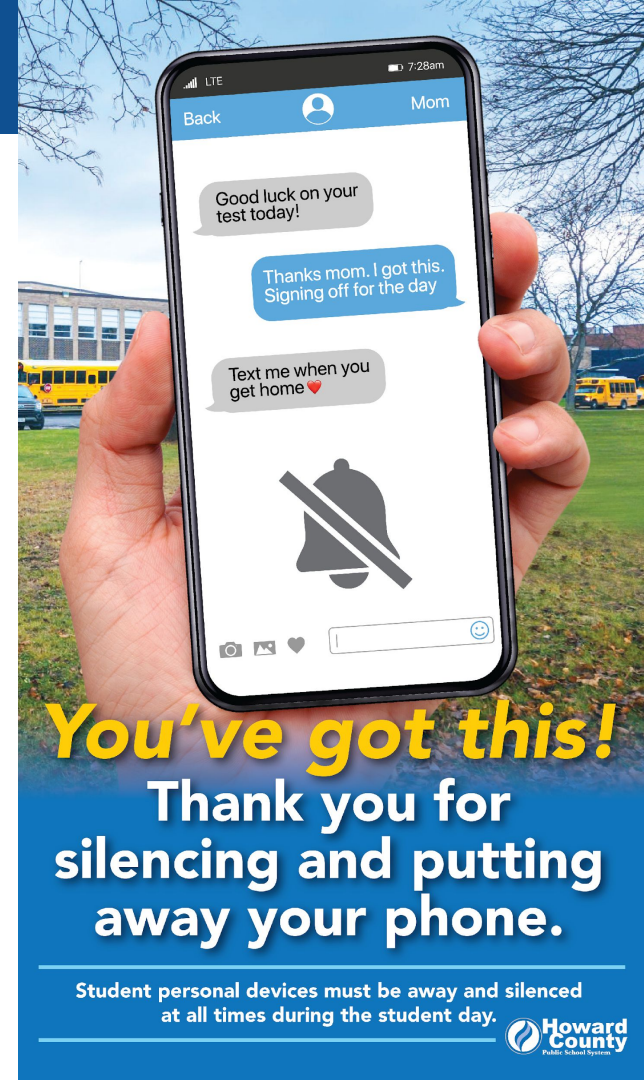
[Log out](#)

- School meals
- Health insurance
- HCC tuition
- SAT, ACT and AP exam fees
- Camps, sports, child care
- Many other benefits



# Student Personal Device Use

- Personal devices may not be seen, heard, or be a distraction.
  - **Smart watches may be worn during the student day but may not distract instruction**
  - Staff discretion is used on field trips.
  - School administrators may authorize use of a personal device in rare instances (mainly emergencies)..
- 
- **1<sup>st</sup> violation:** Device is confiscated. Student picks up at end of the day.
  - **All other violations:** Device is confiscated. Parent/guardian must pick up.
  - Personal devices for assistive technology may be used as defined in an **IEP/504/Health Plan.**



**You've got this!**  
**Thank you for  
silencing and putting  
away your phone.**

Student personal devices must be away and silenced  
at all times during the student day.

# Be Involved in HCPSS systemwide efforts:

## Community Advisory Council



## Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee



**Now for the  
stuff you're  
really here for!**



# Your 4th Grade Team includes:

Mrs. Dobmeier, 4th grade teacher

Ms. Eckert, 4th grade teacher

Mr. Horton, 4th grade teacher

Ms. Weiser, 4th grade teacher/instructional team leader

Mrs. Dean, GT resource teacher

Mr. Lissy, special educator

Mrs. Black, paraeducator

Ms. Flo, Ms. Char, Ms. V - paraeducators

Mrs. Robey, reading specialist

Mrs. Olson & Ms. Kim, ELD

Mrs. Twigg, orchestra/band

Mr. Dobson, chorus

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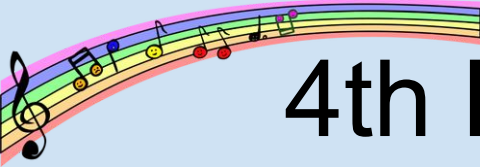
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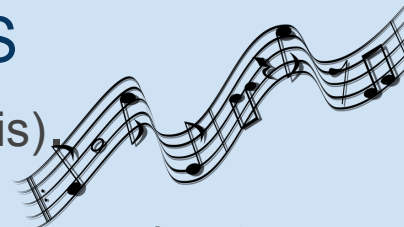


Our instrumental and choral music staff would like to remind all 4th grade families that band/orchestra registration forms are due **as soon as possible!** All families are asked to fill out the music form even if your child is opting out!



# 4th Band, Orchestra & Chorus!

All information is found on the 4th Grade News RES Canvas page in Modules. (all 4th graders have access to this)



**Please complete the Registration form ASAP!** (Don't worry about getting an instrument in time, etc.... You and your child will have time and receive help on this if you choose to join band.)

Students will be moved to the correct music ensemble Canvas page(s) once you register.

**If your child wants to join a music group** (to be able to be in the band, orchestra or chorus in middle school) **THIS is the year to get started!**

Mrs. Twigg, Mr. Langrick & Mr. Dobson can not wait to start lessons!

# We are here for your students!

## “Handle with Care”

If your child or family is having a tough time, we would like to do our best to provide extra support at school. We understand that details cannot always be shared, and that's ok. If your child has had a particularly difficult morning or night, feel free to send us a message that simply says “handle with care.” That will help us to know that your child may need extra time, patience, or support that day.



image: Jean Andre



# *Meet the School Counselors*



Mrs. Tamara  
Braxton-Chee  
k

RES: Monday  
(every other),  
Wednesday  
and Friday

Grades: K, 1, 3, 5

tamara\_braxton-cheek@hcpss.org



Mrs. Kelly Clark

RES: Each day

Grades: 2,4

kelly\_h\_clark@hcpss.org

*We teach classroom lessons, offer small group counseling as well as short term individual sessions.*



# A Day in the life of a 4th grader:

**8:30-8:55 Arrival/Social Emotional Learning**

**8:55-9:50 Content (science, social studies, health)**

**9:50-10:50 Related Arts**

**10:50-12:50 ELA (reading/writing)**

**12:50-1:50 Lunch/Recess**

**1:50-3:05 Math**

**3:05-3:15 Dismissal**

# Color Day “Rainbow” Related Arts Calendar

Related arts classes, chorus, and enrichment seminars at recess all follow the Rainbow calendar.

## September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Schools & Offices Closed* Labor Day	2 RED	3 ORANGE	4 YELLOW	5 GREEN	6
7	8 BLUE	9 RED	10 ORANGE	11 YELLOW	12 GREEN	13
14	15 BLUE	16 RED	17 ORANGE	18 YELLOW	19 GREEN	20
21	22 BLUE	23 Schools & Offices Closed Rosh Hashanah	24 RED	25 ORANGE	26 YELLOW	27
28	29 GREEN	30 BLUE	*State-Mandated Public School Holiday  The HCPSS academic calendar is subject to change. Additional HCPSS calendars can be found online at <a href="http://www.hcps.org/calendar">www.hcps.org/calendar</a> . This document was updated for the final time May 23, 2025. Any further updates will be reflected in the online calendar.			

# Fourth Grade Homework Expectations

## Language Arts Homework

Weekly Reading Log (starting this week)

- Self-selected books
- Sent home in the Friday Folder, due the following

Thursday

## Math Homework

- Students can expect to have math homework 4 nights per week (5 nights per week for GT math)

# HCPSS Homework Policy

- **Amount of Homework:** No more than 40 minutes required per night in grade 4
- **Purpose of Homework:** Homework reflects daily instruction, reinforces previously taught skills, prepares students for future lessons, and/or promotes creativity.



If your child struggles with their homework assignment, put a note on it or email your teacher.

# Fourth Grade Expectations

## Independent Reading

- Students are always expected to have a book with them at school that they can read independently.
- This can be a book from home, a public library book, a book from the media center, or from the classroom library.
- Graphic novels and comic books are not suitable for independent reading in the classroom

# Fourth Grade Expectations

## **Friday Folders**

- Student weekly reading log (starting in 9/12 folder)
- May include
  - graded work
  - notices and information
  - notes from teachers
- Family, please review and return to school each week

# Canvas: What to Expect



Course Homepage:



Overview



Student privacy information



Resources



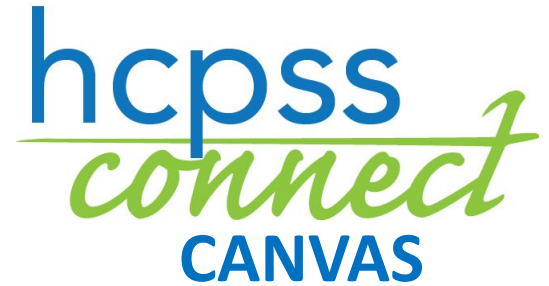
Calendar dates/events



Assignments and Gradebook

Announcements

Direct Messaging (Inbox)



Canvas courses for preK-8 students have a more simplified interface than high school. When selecting a child, you will see the same layout as that child sees in Canvas.

Have Canvas Questions? Click the **Canvas Student & Parent Orientation** link under the Help icon on the Canvas homepage



Help

# More about Canvas...


Canvas is an important resource for students and parents.

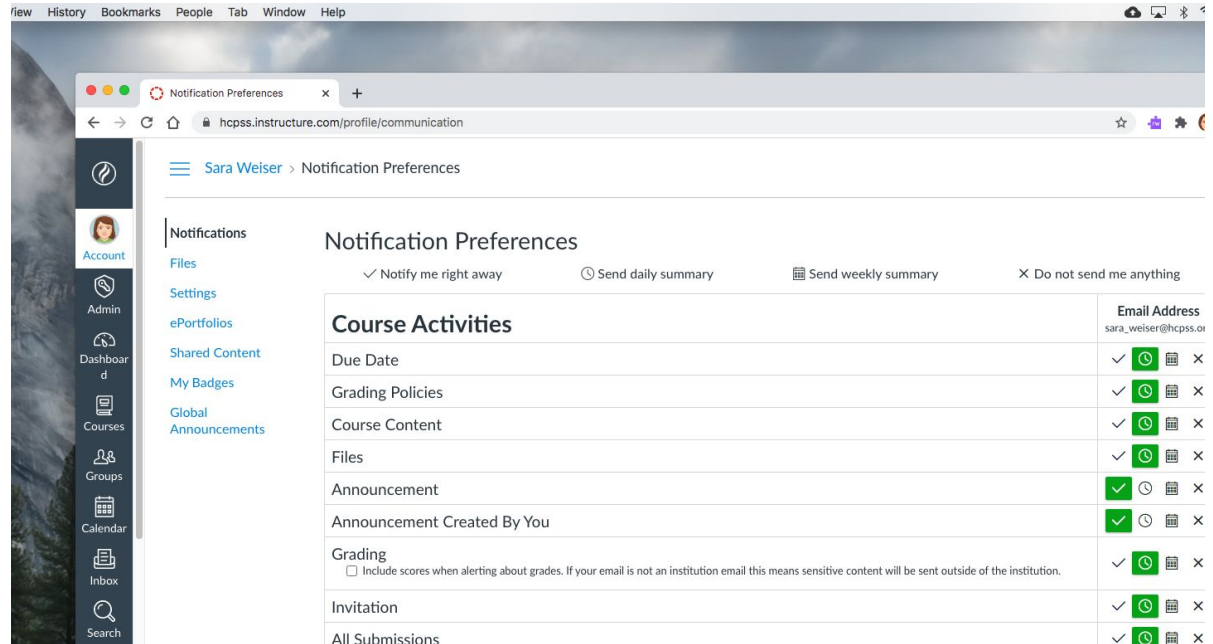
- Modules with Overview pages in most subjects
- Assignments (not all assignments will be posted)
- Grades
- Announcements
- Inbox messages

Families: be sure you are set to receive notifications from your child's Canvas subjects!



# Canvas Notifications

- Depending on how your Canvas is set up, you may be receiving too many or too few notifications.
- We suggest having your notifications set to receive “Announcements” right away 
- Other notifications can be set to come daily or weekly.



Notification Preferences

✓ Notify me right away    ⌚ Send daily summary    📅 Send weekly summary    ✕ Do not send me anything

Course Activities	Email Address
Due Date	sara_weiser@hcps.org
Grading Policies	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Course Content	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Files	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Announcement	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Announcement Created By You	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Grading <input type="checkbox"/> Include scores when alerting about grades. If your email is not an institution email this means sensitive content will be sent outside of the institution.	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
Invitation	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕
All Submissions	✓ ⌚ 📅 ✕

# Canvas Updates

The screenshot shows the Canvas LMS interface for Sara Weiser. The top navigation bar includes links for Home, Schedule, Grades, Resources, and To Do. The 'My Subjects' section displays six course cards: 4TH GRADE, Health, ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Each card shows the course name and a status of 'Nothing due today'. On the right side, the 'Important Dates' sidebar is visible, showing the date Tuesday, September 14, and a calendar icon next to the text 'Back To School Night'. A red arrow points from a blue callout box to this sidebar.

Welcome, Sara Weiser!

[Home](#) [Schedule](#) [Grades](#) [Resources](#) [To Do](#)

**My Subjects**

Published Courses (6)

- 4TH GRADE**  
GRADE 4 RES  
Nothing due today  
Music Registration Information
- Health**  
HEALTH EDUCATION 04-W...  
Nothing due today
- ELA**  
LANGUAGE ARTS 04-WEIS...  
Nothing due today
- Math**  
MATHEMATICS 04-WEISER...  
Nothing due today
- Science**  
SCIENCE 04-WEISER-FY-R...  
Nothing due today
- Social Studies**  
SOCIAL STUDIES 04-WEISE...  
Nothing due today

**Important Dates**

Tuesday, September 14

LANGUAGE ARTS 04-Weiser-FY-RES  
[Back To School Night](#)

Be sure to keep an eye on the "Important Dates" column!

# Canvas Updates

Canvas Updates

Account Home Subjects Calendar Inbox History Search Help Grades

hcppss.instructure.com/courses/163522

ELA

LANGUAGE ARTS 04-Weiser-FY-RES

Home Schedule Modules Grades Resources

WELCOME TO 4TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS WITH MS. WEISER!

Each subject has modules that contain unit overviews and may have assignments.

This year in fourth grade your instructor will be focusing on the following standards. You will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction text that... meaningfully, and listen critically.

- Read a variety of texts. For example, fiction, nonfiction, informational, and literary texts.
- Write for a variety of purposes. For example, letters, stories, lists.
- Read independently at least 25 books throughout the year.
- Establish a daily routine at home for reading and writing.

Reset Student Leave Student View

63 You are currently logged into Student View

Resetting the test student will clear all history for this student, allowing you to view the course as a brand new student.

# Canvas Updates

The screenshot displays the Canvas LMS interface for a course titled "LANGUAGE ARTS 04-Weiser-FY-RES". The course is categorized under "ELA" (English Language Arts). The navigation bar includes links for Home, Schedule, Modules, Grades, and Resources. A red arrow points to the "Grades" link, which is highlighted. A text overlay on the "Grades" link states: "Students and families can view graded work here".

The course page content includes a welcome message: "WELCOME TO 4TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS WITH MS. WEISER!". Below this, a list of standards is provided:

- Read a variety of texts. For example, nonfiction, fiction, mysteries.
- Write for a variety of purposes. For example, letters, stories, lists.
- Read independently at least 25 books throughout the year.
- Establish a daily routine at home for reading and writing.

The footer of the page indicates the user is logged in as a student and provides options to "Reset Student" or "Leave Student View".

# Report Cards and Grading







# **Standards-Based Instruction and Reporting SBIR**

**Grades 3 - 5  
2025-2026**

# What is Standards Based Instruction and Reporting?

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1. Outlines consistent standards to be taught, is focused on learning goals, and sets purpose.
2. Reports student achievement *in reference to the standards they are taught* with consistent scoring practices.
3. Supports all students in reaching the standards.
4. Progress is reported compared to a standard - not compared to other students.
5. Is equitable.



# What Do Academic Grades Look Like?

Progress toward meeting grade level standards will be reported based on multiple measures including, but not limited to, teacher observation, formal and informal assessments, classwork, and projects.

**A - *Consistently*** meets expectations (90% or higher)

**B - *Frequently*** meets expectations (89% - 80%)

**C - *Making sufficient progress*** toward expectations ( 79% - 70%)

**D - *Making insufficient progress*** toward expectations (69% - 40%)

**E - *Limited / No progress*** toward expectations (39% or below)



# Academic Reporting Codes



***How often are grades reported for each subject?***

Subject Areas are reported QUARTERLY  
Related Arts are reported SEMESTERLY.

<b>Student performance</b> - For grades 3-5 within curriculum standards is indicated by a teacher assessment of the evidence noting the following
A – Consistently meets expectations (90% or higher)
B – Frequently meets expectations (89% - 80%)
C – Making sufficient progress toward expectations (79% - 70%)
D – Making insufficient progress toward expectations (69% - 40%)
E – Limited/No progress towards expectations (39% or below)
<b>Learning Behaviors</b> - Indicates student demonstration of learning
1 - Meets Expectation
2 - Making Progress Towards Expectation
3 - Limited/No Progress Towards Expectation

	REPORTING PERIOD			
MATHEMATICS	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates understanding of number, fraction, and decimal concepts				
Demonstrates understanding of addition and subtraction of different number types				
Demonstrates understanding of multiplication and division of different number types				
Demonstrates understanding of algebraic thinking, expressions, and equations				
Demonstrates understanding of geometry concepts				
Demonstrates understanding of measurement, data, and statistics				
SCIENCE				
Demonstrates use of science and engineering practices to build				

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Demonstrates knowledge and skills for social and emotional health

Demonstrates knowledge and skills for violence prevention

Demonstrates knowledge and skills for personal health.

Demonstrates knowledge and skills for disease prevention.

Demonstrates speaking and listening skills to productively participate in conversations

**Reporting Period:** Each reporting period stands independent; the fourth marking period is not cumulative

	LANGUAGE ARTS				MATH				SCIENCE				SOCIAL STUDIES				HEALTH EDUCATION			
LEARNING BEHAVIORS	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates Interpersonal Skills																				
Demonstrates Responsibility																				
Demonstrates Perseverance																				
Demonstrates Collaboration																				
Demonstrates Initiative																				

**Understanding the report card:** A gray box above indicates the score is not reported during the reporting period. N/A means "not available;" see report card comments for more information. The report card is one means of communicating your student's progress within Howard County Public School System's curriculum for each quarter. Parents are encouraged to maintain communication with school staff throughout the year.

For more information about grading and reporting, please visit <https://www.hcpss.org/report-cards>

# Learning Behaviors

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- Number grades 1, 2, 3 for learning behaviors
- Two pages
- Quarterly grades on first page, related arts grades and teacher comments on the second page
- Multiple measurement topics for each content area
- ***There is no Above, On, or Below grade level reported, because grades for all students are assessing grade-level standards.***

# Learning Behaviors

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LEARNING BEHAVIORS	1	2	3	4
Demonstrates Interpersonal Skills				
Demonstrates Responsibility				
Demonstrates Perseverance				
Demonstrates Collaboration				
Demonstrates Initiative				

ART	REPORTING PERIOD	
	2	4
Generates and reflects on a variety of ideas to develop personal solutions		
Uses design strategies, reflects on and refines work to ensure quality		
<b>INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY</b>		
Employs digital citizenship, computational thinking skills and transfers knowledge to explore emerging technologies		
Demonstrates proficient use of technology operations and computing systems		
<b>LIBRARY MEDIA</b>		
Demonstrates new knowledge through inquiry, critical thinking, and problem solving		
Demonstrates an appreciation of literature in a variety of topics, genres, and formats		

MUSIC	REPORTING PERIOD	
	2	4
Demonstrates skills and strategies to inform and develop performance		
Generates, communicates and evaluates musical ideas for refinement		
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b>		
Demonstrates fundamental motor skills		
Demonstrates knowledge and skills related to fitness and movement concepts		
<b>INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE</b>		
Demonstrates skills and strategies to inform and develop performance		
Generates, communicates and evaluates musical ideas for refinement		
<b>LOCAL ENSEMBLE</b>		
Demonstrates skills and strategies to inform and develop performance		
Generates, communicates and evaluates musical ideas for refinement		

Academic grades and learning behaviors for these content areas are reported semestery.

LEARNING BEHAVIORS	ART		INST TECH	
	2	4	2	4
Demonstrates Interpersonal Skills				
Demonstrates Responsibility				
Demonstrates Perseverance				
Demonstrates Collaboration				
Demonstrates Initiative				

Related Arts grades

#Error

Learning Behaviors for RA

Comment Box

# Report Card Comments

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***All report cards include a section for written narrative comments, which will include a comment:***

- Highlighting a student strength.
- Stating if a student is working on standards beyond their current grade level, if applicable.
- Providing clarification on what a student should continue to work on for any measurement topics marked “D or E”
- Providing clarification on what a student should continue to work on for any learning behaviors marked “3.”
- Providing clarification on any not applicable (N/A), if applicable.

# More Information on SBIR

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Access the QR code to  
view standards based  
instruction and reporting  
parent resources.



# Field Trip!

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- Finalizing the details for a field trip to Biztown
- Biztown is a program through Junior Achievement
- Supports/supplements our 4th quarter financial literacy instruction
- Tentative date: **Friday, May 15**
- Price per student is estimated at **\$43-\$45** (includes program and bus transportation) **this is our ONLY field trip this year**
- Chaperones will be needed
- Much more information to come in the spring



4th graders  
have a  
special  
opportunity!

A free pass  
for students  
and their  
families to  
many parks  
and historic  
sites across  
the country.

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) ▾

**everykidoutdoors.gov**

**HOW IT WORKS**

**GET YOUR PASS**

**PLAN A TRIP**



**Hey fourth graders! See  
America's natural wonders  
and historic sites for free.**

**LET'S GO!**

# Thank you for coming!

We are looking  
forward to a great  
year in 4th grade!

