

Dear Families,

I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year. I have been in education for 15 years and have taught almost every grade 1st-5<sup>th</sup>! I have lived in Saint Petersburg for 21 years and am originally from New York but have lived in Colorado as well. I love it here because we have so much natural beauty surrounding us and lots of sunshine. I love to swim, paddle board, camp, go to the beach, cook and read. I have a daughter who is a sophomore in High School. We also have 2 cats, 2 dogs and a horse! We are animal lovers! I enjoy bringing the elements of our local environment into my classroom and lessons. I also encourage creativity and independence. I think learning should be fun, vigorous and hands-on. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your family this coming school year. This year, your student will be part of a very special science project in partnership with Clam Bayou and USF. The students will be collecting environmental data to share with NOAA and NASA throughout the year.

I have an open-door policy for communication. You are welcome to contact me at any time. Text is the best way to reach me during school hours, please do not email time sensitive information. My number is 727-641-0029.. I will do my best to get back to you in a timely manner while not interrupting instructional time. Parents are also welcome to volunteer in my classroom at any time. My email address is [blainejes@pcsb.org](mailto:blainejes@pcsb.org). Please email me so I can add you to our class email list. I will be sending a weekly newsletter to keep you up to date. As you know, your support and participation are key parts to your child's success and is greatly appreciated.

## Reading

We will read many great books in fourth grade! Some of the titles include Manatee Summer, Gregor the Overlander, Esperanza Rising, and Save Me a Seat. I strongly encourage all students to read every day for at least 30 minutes. In this packet you will also find a list of the new Sunshine State Young Reader Award Books for 3rd to 5th grade. Students who would like to participate in Battle of the Books in 4th grade should get started and read at least 3 of the SSYRA books.

There are also many great titles available on MYON, Newsela, and CommonLit for free. Students can access that through CLEVER using their same username/password.

## Math

**STUDENTS SHOULD COME TO 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE KNOWING BASIC MULTIPLICATION FACTS TO 12s.**

The other goals I STRONGLY encourage every student to reach are:

- 1) To know multiplication and division facts through 12s. To learn their basic math facts (through 20 for addition, subtraction). This will make 4th grade math much easier!
- 2) To review and understand basic place value through the thousands place. Place value is the backbone of math. We use it when we learn multi-digit multiplication and division. We use it when we learn decimals. We use it when we work with measurement in math and science. It's essential to understanding math now, and in the future.

## **Grading**

4th and 5th grade uses Standards Based Grading as our grading method. This is significantly different than previous grades. Students will not receive a participation grade, but rather will be graded according to their mastery level on our BEST Standards for ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. There will be multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery throughout the grading period. Students are encouraged to review each assessment and work through the resources provided for reteaching, reinforcement, or enrichment to be prepared to demonstrate proficiency/mastery at the next opportunity. More detailed information about our standards-based grading policy, embedded retakes, and resources for review will be sent out in the fall.

If you would like to look at all the Florida Standards for 4<sup>th</sup> grade, you may access them through these links:

<https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/la/elabeststandardsfinal2108.pdf>

<https://cpalmsmediaproduct.blob.core.windows.net/uploads/docs/standards/best/ma/mathbeststandardsfinal.pdf>

[file:///C:/Users/timsonc/OneDrive%20-%20Pinellas%20County%20Schools/Desktop/science\\_standards.pdf](file:///C:/Users/timsonc/OneDrive%20-%20Pinellas%20County%20Schools/Desktop/science_standards.pdf)

## **SUPER IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION INFO:**

Perkins will NOT be using Class Dojo this year. Please email me from your preferred email address so we have a reliable method to communicate important information to you! I look forward to working with you and your child!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Blaine

### **Tips for supporting your child's academic progress:**

- Visit your local library! Help your child find “right fit” books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five-finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.
- Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.
- Read to & with your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. explore different types of reading such as poetry. Poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency and vocabulary.
- Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.
- Play games with words. Games like Apples to Apples and Scattergories improves vocabulary. Hink Pinks are a very fun and addictive vocabulary game. No materials needed!

<http://www.thinkablepuzzles.com/hinkpinks/hinkpinks1.shtml>

[https://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/TM/WS\\_sponges.shtml](https://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS_sponges.shtml)

- Play simple math games with cards and dice to help learners strengthen place value

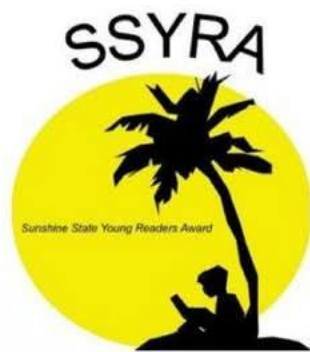
skills and fact fluency.

<https://www.weareteachers.com/math-card-games/>

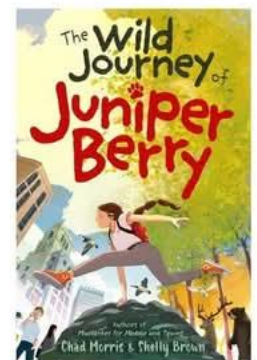
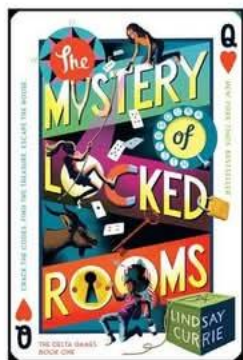
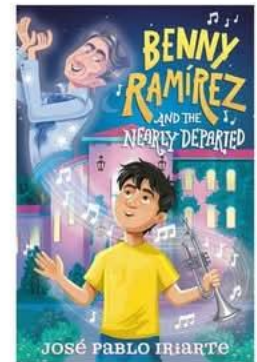
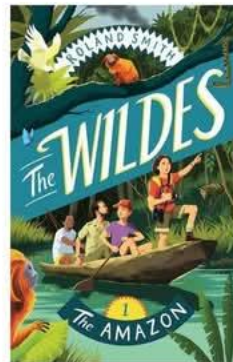
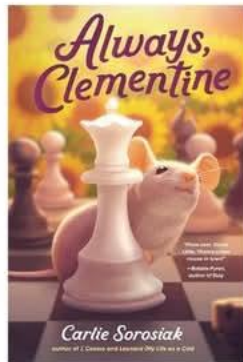
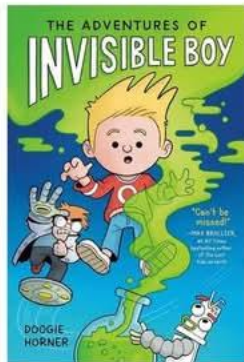
<https://www.upperelementarysnapshots.com/2015/09/7-math-games-for-card-sharks.html>

- My favorite site for just getting lost in all the awesomeness of math is:

<https://mathigon.org/polypad>



# SSYRA 2025-2026 Grades 3-5



## How many will you read?