

Dear Families,

Welcome to Mrs. Burtch's 4th grade Class! I'm thrilled to begin my second year here at Perkins and my 16th year overall as an educator. I'm originally from Michigan, and I spent 12 years living and teaching in California before making Florida my home in 2022. Most of my teaching experience is in third and fourth grade.

A little bit about me: I am married, and I have three children: Cecilia, who will be joining Perkins as a Kindergartner this fall, and two-year-old twins, Maya and Emmett. When I'm not teaching, I love reading, exploring Florida, and spending time with my family.

Let's talk about Fourth Grade!

The Harry Potter theme of 4th grade is just a theme. We do not teach potions or make real potions. We do not cast spells. In no way are we teaching or engaging in witchcraft. It is just a fun way to get kids interested in series books, character development, and the genre of fantasy. Some themes that we will explore throughout the year are friendship, justice/fairness, equality, integrity, honesty, persistence, overcoming obstacles, resiliency, teamwork, and choices. The theme also provides a positive behavior structure for the class- **Students earn PBIS awards throughout the day, week, & year for both individual and team displays of our guidelines for success: ARTS.**

Always try your best.

Respect others and yourself.

Treat others kindly.

Safety First.

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 this summer, 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 titles over the summer.** There are 15 Sunshine State titles, so start soon!

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

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

- 1) To learn their **basic math facts** (through 10 for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). 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 multidigit 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.

Research shows that students who do not read or practice skills previously learned are in danger of losing that knowledge. **Some reports estimate that students who do not stay mentally engaged over the summer can lose up to 22% of the knowledge gained in a school year.** That's a lot! Please give your child the invaluable gift of keeping that 22% by making sure he or she reads and does common, everyday math around the house, in the store, and just because.

Please feel free to contact me through FOCUS or email over the summer if you have any questions or concerns. I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Burtch burtcha@pcsb.org

What Supplies Does Every 4th Grader Need?

Essentials:

- 4 composition notebooks for math, ELA, and science. We will need 2 for math! Please no spirals- they fall apart fast and poke students with the wire.
- 5 folders with PRONGS and POCKETS (preferably green for math, blue for science, purple for ELA, yellow for Social Studies, and red for homework and data). The plastic kind will last all year!
- 24 pencils. Students go through a LOT in a year!
- 4 glue sticks
- Supply pouch (not a box because it is too bulky for the desk)
- USB Headphones for daily use
- Water bottle- can refill at the sink all day. The door is locked, so students do not have access to the water fountain during academic time.
- 1 pack of sticky notes
- 2 boxes of tissues

Nice to have:

- Colored pencils
- Cap erasers
- A highlighter

Wish List for the Class: <https://bit.ly/burtchwishlist>

- Extra of ANYTHING above 😊
- Band-Aids
- Page protectors
- White cardstock
- Gallon sized bags
- Disinfectant wipes
- Decks of cards
- Hand Sanitizer
- Paper Towels

Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide

Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children may fall victim to the “summer slide” if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

- 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

- 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>

Have a happy and healthy summer! Keep those busy brains active and learning!

Homer Price Summer Reading Choice Board

Please choose at least 3 activities to complete as you read the book, Homer Price.

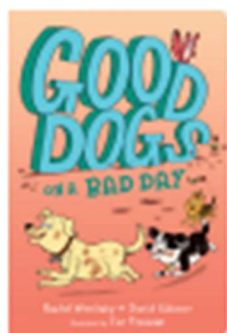
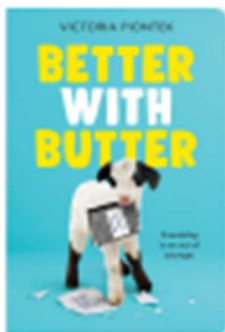
Complete the activities on separate pieces of paper (included).

Turn your activities in when we come back to school on August 12.

<p>Homer tames a skunk. If you could tame a wild animal, what kind of animal would you tame and why?</p>	<p>Freddy is disappointed to discover that the Super Duper is an ordinary person. If you could pick one superhero to be real, which would you choose and why?</p>	<p>Uncle Ulysses loves labor saving devices. If you could invent a device that did one of your chores, what would it be?</p>
<p>Homer Price is set in a particular place (Centerburg) and time. Would you like the book more or less if it took place during the present day? Why?</p>	<p>How is Centerburg like your hometown? How is it different? Would you like to have lived in Centerburg in the 1940s? Why or why not?</p>	<p>How is Homer like the kids you know today? How would Homer's life be different if he lived today?</p>
<p>Create a five frame "Super Duper" comic strip, complete with captions.</p>	<p>Think about something that you would like to invent; use your imagination. Draw a picture of it, name it, and describe in detail what it does.</p>	<p>Which chapter was your favorite from this book? Why was it your favorite?</p>



SSYRA Books 2023-24 Grades 3-5



How many will you read?

SUPER IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION INFO:

Perkins will NOT be using Class Dojo next year. Please email me from your preferred email address so we have a reliable method to communicate important information to you!

burtcha@pcsb.org