

School Supplies:

Please send the following supplies to school. *The only items that need to be labeled with your child's name are the backpack, scissors, ruler and pencil pouch.*

- ✓ Backpack
- ✓ Pencil bag with zipper
- ✓ 2 packs of computer paper
- ✓ 1 pack of index cards
- ✓ 2 packs of post-it notes
- ✓ 3 dozen pencils
- ✓ 4 spiral notebooks
- ✓ 2 packs loose leaf paper
- ✓ 1 pack of markers
- ✓ 1 pack of highlighters
- ✓ 1 pack of colored pencils
- ✓ 5 folders with prongs and pockets: assorted colors, plastic preferred
- ✓ 2 bottles hand sanitizer
- ✓ 2 containers of disinfecting wipes
- ✓ 1 3-ring binder (1 inch rings with pockets)
- ✓ 1 box dry erase markers
- ✓ 1 pack of dividers
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ 2 boxes of Tissue
- ✓ 1 box of Ziploc bags
- ✓ 8 Glue Sticks
- ✓ Inch/centimeter ruler

Due to diminishing school funding, teachers at Apopka Elementary were given no budget for basic classroom supplies, so our class would greatly appreciate a donation of any of the supplementary items listed below. Sadly, I will not have supplies in the classroom to replenish as the year progresses, so you will need to check with your child during the year to make sure they still have the supplies they need.

Roll of paper towels
Band-Aids
Construction paper
Poster boards

Welcome to 4th Grade!

*A Parent's Guide
To Fourth Grade*

Mrs. Buxton
Apopka Elementary



I am very excited to be a part of your child's education this year. Your child is very important to me, and I look forward to working with each of you to ensure your child's success this year.

In addition to the curriculum I will be teaching this year, I strive to instill in my students the desire to learn and be the best they can be. Because fourth grade students are expected to be independent, your child will learn to make responsible decisions regarding their work and efforts. To support these lessons, it is also important for them to see that learning doesn't stop once they leave school.

Your job as a parent is also important. You are the greatest teacher they will ever have. Children need to read and be read to every night. Writing together and working on math is just as important. I know that everyone leads busy lives, but it is important for your child to receive that little extra bit that you can provide at home.

I welcome your questions, comments, or concerns throughout the year. The following pages address common issues that may arise as we progress through the school year, but feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns. I look forward to a fun and educational year!

Communication

Good communication between students, parents, and teachers is the key to success. If at any time you wish to contact me, feel free to call the school and set up an appointment for a conference. I welcome feedback, questions or concerns.

I will also send communications home with the students in their daily planner. This will contain important information, so I ask that you check it daily. If you have notes for me, attach them to the planner so that students may give them to me daily as well. Students are responsible for writing their daily homework and behavior in their planner, a skill that is appropriate for fourth graders. I ask that you sign the planner each day so that you are always aware of what is going on in the classroom.

Apopka Elementary School Phone:
(407) 884-2200

E-mail:
toni.buxton@ocps.net

Website:
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Social Studies

Fourth grade students will learn about Florida history focusing on Exploration and Colonization, Growth, and the 20th Century and beyond. Students will study the important historical people, places and events that helped shape Florida. The Scott Foresman text and other materials will be used to develop social studies knowledge. Much of the history content will be incorporated into our whole and small group reading instruction, and we will have one project each marking period that will be used to demonstrate understanding of Florida's history. We will also be writing a Florida History book together that will be available for purchase later in the year (details to follow).

Economics and Government

Our economics and government content will be incorporated in our daily classroom lives through the use of a classroom economy and classroom government. Students will hold elected positions within the class (President, Senate Leader, House Leader), will make classroom laws, as members of either the Senate or House of Representatives and will earn Buxton Bucks for their work. More details on these projects will be sent home within the first few weeks of school, but may also be accessed at the class website throughout the year.

Are you ready for a great year?

Buxtonians (that's your child!) will also participate in a number of fun activities this school year to include:

- ✓ Filming book trailers
- ✓ Reader's Theater projects
- ✓ Florida Living History Museum
- ✓ AR Reading incentives
- ✓ Fun Run
- ✓ Quarterly goal setting
- ✓ Multiplication Sundae incentives

I hope you're are ready for a fantastic fourth grade year as I am!

Thank you for all that you do!

Mathematics

This year we will be following these basic guidelines for our math curriculum. You may also see lessons or assignments from other, supplementary materials. All student textbook materials can be accessed at PearsonSuccessnet.com. Your child will receive a username and password from me within the first few weeks of school.

First Marking Period

Numeration
Recalling Multiplication Facts
Division Meaning and Facts
Multiplying by One- and Two-Digit Numbers

Second Marking Period

Developing Fluency in Multiplication
Patterns and Expressions
Equations
Decimals and Numeration

Third Marking Period

Decimals and Numeration
Fractions and Decimals
Understanding and Finding Area
Two- and Three-Dimensional Shapes

Fourth Marking Period

FCAT
Increasingly Complex Multiplication and Division
Preview of 5th grade math skills

Science

The Sunshine State Standards for science include continued use of the scientific method to examine properties and changes in matter, energy transfer and transformation, Earth structures, Earth in space and time, motion of objects, heredity and reproduction, and interdependence. Our main focus for instruction is hands-on learning in which students will complete lab assignments or experiments to learn how scientists think. We will also be using the Scott Foresman Science textbook and a variety of other materials to provide opportunities for students to meet grade level expectations.

Behavior Expectations:

I have high expectations for the students in my room. I expect the students to achieve academically to their fullest potential, and to contribute in a positive manner to our classroom.

To communicate with you about your child's behavior at school each day, you will find a notation made in his or her planner daily. Next to the line where parents are asked to sign nightly, you'll find a number written with a circle around it. Listed below are the numbers used and how they reflect daily behavior.

- 5 (Green) A GREAT day!
- 4 (Yellow) Warning given
- 3 (Orange) Time out in another class and complete a Think Sheet
- 2 (Blue) Phone call to parent
- 1 (Red) Referral

Please use this information to celebrate the good choices your child makes and, if needed, discuss how behavior can be improved.

As a class, we will design a list of class rules in the first few weeks of school. This will be done in the form of classroom laws, and may be supplemented by a class anthem, class flag, and other relevant items of the students' choosing.

Snacks and Lunch

We will be having snack this year as we have a late lunch. Each child is responsible for bringing in an individual snack. *No sweets, potato chips, or sodas will be allowed for snack except on birthdays or special occasions.* Popcorn (already popped), pretzels, fruit, graham crackers, granola bars, and pudding are just a few ideas for a nutritional snack. I strongly encourage students to have water bottles in class throughout the day. It is very important to remember that only water is allowed.

We would like to encourage anyone who can to pay online at www.mylunchmoney.com or weekly with a check. *All lunch money must be in a sealed baggy or envelope with your child's first and last name on it and the teacher's name.* I do not count lunch money as it goes directly to the lunchroom.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the learning process because it reinforces things that we are learning and it keeps the family informed about the topics we are covering in class. The extra practice at home provides students with another opportunity to work on the skills being covered in class and it allows them to receive additional help.

Homework is sent home on a nightly basis. Students are responsible for writing their homework assignments in their planner. Because students are responsible for completing any work that was not finished throughout the day, they should write this in their planner as well.

It is essential that all students turn in their homework every day. In addition to any unique assignments or projects, I expect students to complete several assignments on a nightly basis:

- Complete any assignment not completed in school (this could be math, reading, language arts, social studies or science activities)
- Study spelling words
- Practice basic math facts (+, -, ×, ÷)
- Spend at least 30 minutes reading independently, Monday through Friday

If students make the above activities part of their nightly routine, there should be no need for him/her to spend more than 30-40 minutes on homework, not including nightly reading.

Grading

Learning is a process of teaching, practicing, reviewing, and assessing. Therefore, not all papers are graded, but are simply used for practice or reinforcement. When papers are included in a student's class grade, they will either have a percentage or letter grade at the top. **I encourage you to keep all graded papers through the end of each marking period in case of questions about the grade.**

ORANGE COUNTY GRADING SCALE

A = 90% - 100% Excellent Work!

B = 80% - 89% Good Work!

C = 70% - 79% Average Work

D = 60% - 69% Needs Improvement

F = 0% - 59% Unsatisfactory Work

Field Trips/Class Volunteers

In order to keep our children safe, any person wishing to come into class to help or chaperone on a field trip must fill out an ADDitions form and a form from OCPS. The only way to fill out these forms this year is online. ***These forms must be filled out each year, even if you filled them out last year! Please do not wait to fill these out. They take several weeks to be approved.***

Curriculum Overview

****Please note that because our textbooks are not the state-required curriculum, we may take units/stories out of order, and we may not use all of the materials in the workbooks.****

Reading

We will be working on more advanced phonics/word analysis, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction texts. The 90-minute reading block will consist of approximately 30 minutes of whole group instruction, followed by 60 minutes of small-group instruction, independent reading, and center activities designed to strengthen reading skills. Please note that our textbook is not the curriculum, so we may take stories out of order, and we may not use all of the materials in the workbooks.

Language Arts

Writing is a major focus in fourth grade, and will be implemented in a writing workshop format. Lessons will include modeled, shared, and independent writing, with a focus on the writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing). Students will maintain a writer's notebook with writing samples, word lists, writers' tools, and published pieces. Because we will continue to work with finished pieces of writing, students are encouraged to take their writing binders home frequently to share with families.

Spelling will focus on word parts and word roots, high frequency words that 4th grade students should know, common contractions and compound words, homophones, and commonly misspelled words, so an understanding of the meaning of the word parts and word usage is an essential part of our spelling program this year. Students may practice their words at SpellingCity.com.

Grammar instruction will consist of daily mini-lessons in which we review all skills taught, with a focus on a specific skill. A specific grammar skill will also be a focus during authentic writing activities.