

June 5, 2018

SCES 4th Grade

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to 4th Grade at Sycamore Creek Elementary School. My name is Cortney Yahn and I am your child's fourth grade teacher. This will be my fourth year at Sycamore Creek and I am very excited about continuing my journey with this fabulous family!

To tell you a little bit about myself, I am a native North Carolinian, born and raised in Winston-Salem. I attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for my undergraduate and graduate studies. After earning a degree in Elementary Education and a Masters of Language and Literacy, I moved to Raleigh. I spent the first 12 years of my teaching career downtown at Olds Elementary and then I moved to Brier Creek for my thirteenth year to be closer to my home. My husband and I married in 2010, had a daughter named Lucy in 2013 and welcomed a son named Hudson in 2016. This year Lucy will be joining the Croc Family in kindergarten too. ☺ We enjoy working on house projects, gardening, going to museums, and soaking up the wonderful city of Raleigh.

My hobbies are working out, yoga, shopping, drinking coffee and spending time with my family! We love traveling and spending time outdoors at parks, festivals and on the greenway.

This will begin my seventeenth year teaching in Wake County! I have experience teaching second through fifth grade, but fourth has been my absolute FAVORITE!

In this packet, you will find useful information that will help you and your child transition into a new school year. Please review the information as it will be helpful and may answer some questions you have prior to the start of the school year.

As students get settled into fourth grade and routines are firmly established, please realize I will get to know your child and working very hard to meet his/her needs. However, if you have questions, comments or concerns at any time, feel free to contact me by sending me an email at cyahn@wcpss.net, writing a note, or by calling the office at 841-4333 and leaving a message with one of the administrative assistants. It is usually easier to contact me via email, and I will do my best to make contact with you within 24 hours. Our first official parent conferences will take place at the end of August, but of course if you have concerns, we can schedule an earlier date.

I am looking forward to working with you and your child to achieve a fulfilling and successful school year! I appreciate your support at home and look forward to working together to make this school year a success.

Mrs. Yahn

Discipline Plan

Sycamore Creek Elementary School has an outlined Positive Behavior Support discipline policy called CHOMP. You will find an explanation of CHOMP inside your Welcome Folder. We expect students to fully adhere to that policy at all times, as well as displaying good character.

I will spend time on the first day of school going over our classroom discipline plan. Since parental support is imperative for the success of our discipline plan, I will be sending home the plan with students on the first day of school. I hope that you will spend this time going over expectations, rewards, and consequences for the year. Once you have reviewed the class discipline plan, please sign it and return it back to school with your child the following school day.

Curriculum Information

Reading – This year in reading your child will continue using the EL Reading Program that they started in third grade last year. They will be exposed to multiple types of literature and expected to look closely at text. Students will be assessed using multiple assessments throughout the year. Some of the key concepts taught throughout the 4th grade reading curriculum are: main idea, supporting details, cause and effect, author's purpose, predictions, connections, questions, fact & opinions, inferring, drawing conclusions, and other comprehension strategies. Our goal for our students is for them to become independent thinkers.

Math – This year in math your child will be using the Wake County created Alignment Lessons. Students will use their own knowledge to solve problems and are encouraged to reflect and become resourceful problem solvers. Students will collaborate with peers to deepen their understanding for math concepts. As students investigate math situations, they develop communication skills, sharpen their mathematical reasoning, and enhance their social awareness. Practicing multiplication facts with them over the break would be a SUPER way to prepare for the beginning of fourth grade.

Science – This year in Science we will have four themes that we will be investigating. The themes include Magnetism and Electricity, Earth Materials, Landforms, and Animal Studies. We will spend a lot of time doing different experiments through each theme that will bring students to a deeper understanding of the topic we are investigating. Miss Roman will teacher track 1 students Science.

Social Studies - The overall intent in Social Studies this year is to learn about North Carolina's history. We will analyze the chronology of key historical events in North Carolina history. We will understand the development, structure and function of North Carolina's government. We will also understand how human, environmental and technological factors affect the growth and development of North Carolina. I will teach track 1 students Social Studies. Ms. Roman will teach track 1 students the Science curriculum.

Students will switch classes for Science and Social Studies. Two days a week they will focus on Science and two days a week they will focus on Social Studies. This will leave Fridays for remediation or enrichment opportunities.

Standards Based Grading Information (from wcpss.net)

The student performance level is determined by a variety of assessment data for each object that is addressed that grading period. Work habits and conduct grades are separate from the student's content proficiency.

Level 4 - Extends targeted grade level standards: represents the student exceeding grade level expectations set by the state and that a student will be successful in the next grade or quarter and whose curriculum may be enriched.

Level 3 - Demonstrates proficiency of targeted grade level standard: represents the student meeting the grade level expectations set by the state and indicates that a student has the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter.

Level 2 - Inconsistent and needs support to meet targeted grade level standards: indicates that the student has not yet met grade level expectations set by the state and that a student does not have the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter. The student still needs teacher support to be successful with the concept or skill; the student is not yet independent. This should alert parents that close communication is needed for further student support.

Level 1 - Insufficient performance of targeted grade level standards with support: indicates that the student has not yet met grade level expectations set by the state and that a student does not have the necessary skills and concepts to be successful in the next grade or quarter. This should alert parents that close communication is needed for further student support. Grades are provided twice a year for weekly special classes such as art and music, instead of quarterly. This provides special teachers the time with students they need to assess each student's work.

Class Homework Policy and Home Binder

Fourth grade students should be completing 40-50 minutes of homework each night (Monday-Thursday). Weekend homework is extremely rare. Your child will have a reading log (online in my Google Classroom) that requires them to read for 20 minutes each night and

respond to the reading. You can also expect ELA comprehension homework and math homework each week. If your child is taking longer than 50 minutes for homework, please notify me so we can work on solutions together. Wake County policy states that projects and homework from home is practice and it will not be graded; however, it will be considered in student work habits.

For the first few weeks, I will initial your child's agenda each day before they leave school to ensure that all homework is written down. Parents are asked to initial the agenda once homework is completed to verify that all assignments are finished and ready for the due date. I will also write notes for parents in the agenda from time to time, so it is important that you see it each night. Feel free to write to me in this way as well.

Students will bring home a Home Binder every night including weekends. In this binder you will find your **child's daily agenda, homework folder, and paper**. Home Binders must be brought back to school each day with handouts that need to be returned along with completed homework.

- Daily agenda – Students will write down their nightly homework assignments that must be completed. Parents are expected to review it daily with their child and sign their name at the bottom of the page, ensuring that all work has been completed. If your child has set weekly goals, these will also be written in their agenda for you to review with your child.
- Homework folder – If students are expected to complete a worksheet or journal for homework, these items will be included in this folder.
- Paper – If paper becomes low throughout the school year, students are expected to notify their parents. Parents should replenish paper in home binders throughout the school year.

Additional Information

- **Field Trips** – In the past, SCES students have attended performances by the North Carolina Symphony, toured downtown Raleigh, and studied animal adaptations at the North Carolina Zoo. More information regarding field trips will be coming soon.
- **Dress Code** – Please see that your child follows the school dress code. Time is taken out of the instructional day if the student needs to be sent to the office to change into something more appropriate. Please keep in mind that the classrooms can be quite chilly at times, so a sweater/sweatshirt is a good idea.
- **Supplies** – Please see that your child has his/her supplies stocked. Please replace pencils, paper, and crayons periodically. If you have trouble sending in supplies, please let me know.

- **Breakfast and Lunch** – Please see that your child eats a nutritious breakfast before school. Often, a mid-morning headache or stomach ache is due to skipping breakfast. The same applies to lunch and afternoon illnesses. Please do not send candy, sports drinks, or soda in lunches and be sure to include a healthy snack for our break each day. Only water is allowed in the classroom in a water bottle throughout the day.
- **Allergies, medical conditions and medications** – Please notify the school immediately if there is a change in your child's medical status. It is necessary to have the latest information in an emergency situation.
- **Book Orders** – If you choose to purchase books from the offered Book Clubs, only online orders are accepted. Once the order forms are received, I will forward online ordering information.
- **Google Classroom-** Our classroom will frequently use this site for homework, independent assignments, collaborative projects and school forms.
- **Lunch Number** - Please have your child memorize his/her lunch number, even if he/she never buys lunch. This is their login to use a computer at school.
- **Birthdays** – Sending a birthday treat to school with your child is not required, however, if you choose to do so, the treats will be served in the cafeteria with lunch per school policy. You must notify me, in advance, if you will be bringing a treat for your child's birthday. At that time, I will notify you if there are any classroom allergies.
- **Room Parent** – Our class room parent will help me with a variety of classroom activities. If you are interested in being our room parent, please let me know.

What's included in this Welcome Folder?

Items that need to be signed and returned to school by the end of the first week:

- ✓ Student information sheet and Student profile sheet
- ✓ Parent Information – Please Return PROMPTLY- Before June 7th. ☺
- ✓ Technology Letter
- ✓ BYOD Form

Items for you to keep at home

- ✓ Parent Packet
- ✓ Fourth grade and classroom supply list
- ✓ C.H.O.M.P Guidelines