

8-29-17

Dear Parents,

My name is Tasha Yektafard. I am your child's 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and would like the students to call me Mrs. Y. As I begin my 22<sup>nd</sup> year at Chippewa Hills, I am looking forward to an exciting and educational year exploring the advanced curriculum with your child. The following is a brief guide as to my expectations of your child.

**Attendance:** Due to the advanced curriculum in 4th grade, please make every effort to have your child in school, on time (7:45am - 3:15pm) every day. I understand sickness and appointments. However, many doctors and dentists have after school hours for regular check-ups. We also have several half days when afternoon appointments can be scheduled. Please refer to the district calendar for school day specifics. Half days will be from 7:45am-12:15pm.

**Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks:** Free breakfast will be served every morning at 7:45am. Our lunch is at 11:45am. With a 4 hour timespan between breakfast and lunch, students are **encouraged to bring a snack.** Students will be allowed to eat their snack in the classroom providing that it can be eaten quickly and appropriately while they continue to learn. We will not stop our lesson for an actual "snack time." Items including crackers, toast, jerky, mixed nuts (providing no one has an allergy) and dry cereal tend to work well. Please do not bring nuts in the shell. Birthday treats may be sent. Please contact me to make sure of our current number of students. Please remember that I do not have any kitchen supplies and a sheet cake should NOT be sent to school. Individually wrapped items, such as fruit snacks, work very well.

**Supplies:** Supplies you **need to bring** include: a backpack, pencils, one or two boxes of Kleenex to share with the class & gym shoes. Please send **gym shoes** that can be stored in your child's locker. Flip-flops, dress shoes, or boots are not allowed in gym class.

Supplies you are **allowed to bring** include: colored pencils, crayons, erasers, a small plastic supply box to keep in your desk, paper, individual folders and a glue stick. We would also appreciate pencils to share with the class.

Please do **NOT** bring markers or large binders such as "Trapper Keepers" as they will not fit in your desk.

**Allergies and Important Information:** Although parents fill out all of the necessary paperwork for the office, please make a point to bring to my attention any food allergies, bee sting allergies, asthma, etc.

**Homework:** I do not assign "homework" for the purpose of doing an activity at home. In fact, if your child is working at school, there should be no need to bring any homework home.

Daily schoolwork expectations are as follows:

1. Student planners should be viewed by the parents, signed/initialed, and returned to the backpack.
2. A spelling and vocabulary list will be sent on "Day 1" of our Imagine It lesson and a test will be given on "Day 5." However, students will be given plenty of time to practice their words at school. Students will write about upcoming tests in their planner. As we do not always have a 5-day week, tests will not necessarily fall on a Friday.
3. Read your AR book for, at least, thirty minutes each day. Students will be given time to read their AR book at school. This should be enjoyable, as students choose their own books & might choose to read their AR book on the bus. Reading aloud to family members builds fluency. Try reading the Sunday comics, a magazine, a joke book, or some poetry with your child.
4. Practice multiplication facts, division facts and skip counting. Congratulations to the students who have already memorized their facts. For those who haven't, 10 minutes of practice each night at home should help your child to memorize them. There's no need to practice for an hour, ten minutes is a lot of time on this type of activity.
5. Complete any unfinished activity from the day. If your child brings home unfinished work, s/he has not been working at school. There is plenty of time to finish everything at school and daily activities should not need to be carried home.
6. Complete any work missed due to absence. Although I try very hard to catch students up at school, there isn't always enough time in the day to repeat lessons while moving forward onto new lessons. If your child misses a day of school due to illness, s/he might need to complete some school work at home.
7. Relax, play, enjoy your family and get a good night's sleep. These years are precious. Enjoy your time as a family. As the saying goes, "Your child won't always remember what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel."

**Student Planners:** Student Planners are **an expectation**. Each child will bring home his/her own "Student Planner" daily. **Students are responsible to show their parents their planner each night and have their parent sign (or initial) the planner.** The planner will be stamped to acknowledge that your child showed it to me and that it was signed. I will include notes as needed. Feel free to add notes to me, as needed, as well. Students should take the responsibility of the student planner seriously. The point of the planner is to get the children used to daily responsibility. They will write down a brief description of what we did, in each subject, during the day. It is also important that the teacher and parents know that a note written to the other will be promptly received and viewed. Students will earn class bank money,

each day, when they show me their signed planner. It is my hope to maintain constant parent/student/teacher communication through the use of the planners.

**Classroom Bank Money:** Students will earn plastic money to be spent on items and/or privileges. Students have the opportunity to earn money by demonstrating positive behavior, returning notes and/or items, as needed, exceptional acts of kindness, etc. I am looking at the classroom bank as an opportunity to learn to earn, save, count, trade, and manage money.

**Accelerated Reader:** Accelerated Reader is a computerized reading test program. Students will read a book and take a test on the computer. The computer program will keep track of the student's reading level and accuracy. Students will be given "points" by the computer program. I will assign an expected number of points, level of books, and comprehension goal for each marking period. This will be their "AR Goal." Students are expected to read an AR novel (chapter book) for at least 30 minutes every day. In 4<sup>th</sup> grade, AR is a letter grade on the report card. Novels will be an expectation, with picture books being read occasionally for the fun of it. Students are allowed to bring home their AR book. Students who get behind will be required to take their book home daily until they catch up.

### **Lockers:**

- \*Lockers will be assigned on the first day of school.
- \*Students may NOT keep open containers of food or drink in their locker.
- \*Students may NOT keep locks on their locker and are responsible for the items they leave in their locker.
- \*Students will keep their locker clean and free from damage.
- \*Please do not attach items to your locker such as stickers. Magnetic items and clings are allowed.

**Trading:** Trading of any personal items is NOT allowed at school. This policy cuts down on confusion, hurt feelings, and a basic lack of judgment by children who make bad trades.

**Bathroom Breaks:** Our classroom will have scheduled bathroom breaks throughout the day.

### **Water Bottles:**

Students are **encouraged to bring** a water bottle in our classroom providing:

- \*It is in a clean, plastic container that can be sealed.
- \*It is taken home **daily** and washed, for sanitary reasons.
- \*It is not shared with others.
- \*It does not become a general problem.
- \*NO POP \*NO ENERGY DRINKS**

**Birthday Invitations:** A child's birthday is the most exciting day of the year! However, the worst day of the year can be the one when a classmate passes out birthday invitations and you're not invited. To help preserve emotions, please do not give your child any type of invitation to pass out at school unless everyone is invited. You could either mail them or send them to me and I will help your child discretely get them to the appropriate students. Thank you in advance for helping to save a child's feelings.

**Celebrations:** We will celebrate birthdays, Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day at school. I do not assign children to bring treats. If a child would like to bring a treat to share with the class, they are more than welcome. I will send notes prior to major holidays and update families of our current number of students. Each child will celebrate his/her birthday by being the line leader and the helper for the day. Students will be assigned a day if their birthday falls on the weekend or during a break. Students with July and August birthdays are assigned a "school birthday" in September. Students will write their "school birthday" in their planner if we are not in school on their actual birthday.

**Communication** between home and school is very important. In addition to the letters Mrs. Lederer sends home, I will send a parent letter at least once a month. On that day, students will write "See Parent Note" and/or clip the note in their planner. All parent letters from the school can be found on the CHSD website. Please contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Volunteers are always welcome. Please let me know if you would like to visit, or help, in our classroom or throughout the school, on a regular basis. It is my goal to provide your child with a quality education while providing for his/her personal and emotional safety. The BEST way to reach me is to send a note in your child's planner. You may contact me via e-mail at [tyektafard@chsd.us](mailto:tyektafard@chsd.us) although sometimes I don't get a chance to check it during the school day. You may also reach me by text at (989) 506-9898 however, I do not keep my phone on during school hours. Sometimes, I remember to check email/texts during my lunch period.

I look forward to working together to make this the best year ever!

Mrs. Yektafard  
(Mrs. Y.)