

4th GRADE

August 2024

Dear Fourth Grader,

Welcome to fourth grade!! My name is Mrs. Spina and I will be your teacher this year! I hope you are ready for a great year and are as excited as I am to start a new school year in room 410!

I have a feeling that Social Studies and Science are going to be two of your favorite subjects! We will study some really exciting topics like Native American Life, Colonial Times, and the Revolutionary War. Did you know that a group of spies who worked for General George Washington were located in Setauket, the town right next to Port Jefferson?! History can be so fascinating, especially when such important events took place right next door! You are going to explore some cool science experiments as we learn all about states of matter, weathering, organisms, electricity, simple machines and even work with your friends to solve some STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) challenges.

Are you ready for the challenges of fourth grade math!? I bet you've been practicing your multiplication and division facts! Good for you! This year we will delve into fractions, place value, decimals, word problems, and become experts at long division.

During Reader's Workshop, we will study many different genres, such as poetry, historical fiction, fantasy, and nonfiction. We have a library full of fun books! Have you ever joined a book club? You will this year! For Book Clubs, you will get to read, discuss, and celebrate a book with a group of your peers (and your teacher, of course!) Reading just might be your favorite part of the day! I can't wait to see what kind of books you enjoy so please remember to bring your reading log on the first day of school.

In Writer's Workshop, we'll learn some really useful techniques and skills to help us become better writers of realistic fiction, like how to create captivating story openers, and use descriptive language in our writing.

Some of you may already be good at showing and not telling. You will also learn how to write powerful personal, literary, and persuasive essays this year.

Do you still have your Writer's Notebook from third grade? There must be so many treasures inside! To prepare for Writer's Workshop, please pick up a sturdy marbled composition notebook this summer (included on the supply list) and decorate the back and front with pictures that will help you spark ideas for your writing. The pictures might represent important people and animals in your life, hobbies you have, places you enjoy or hope to visit, dreams you have for your future, social causes you feel strongly about, and/or anything else you can think of. It might be a good idea to ask an adult to help you put clear contact paper or clear packaging tape on top to preserve all your clippings. Your writer's notebook is a special place for you to record your feelings, thoughts, important moments, and stories. I can't wait to see your decorated notebooks! If you'd like, feel free to bring your third grade notebook, too, if you have it in a handy place!! It may help you jumpstart your writing this September!

Aside from a big smile and an enthusiasm for learning, there are just a few more things that I am asking you to bring to fourth grade. Hopefully you've found the supply list posted on the Edna Louise Spear Elementary webpage. If possible, please have these items (labeled with your name) in school by Monday, September 9th so we can get started! In addition, each day you can bring in a fresh fruit or vegetable snack to munch on while we work!

You may have heard that fourth grade is tough, but don't worry. If you work hard and try your best, you will be successful. I will be there every step of the way helping and guiding you. Parents, more details will be coming home soon regarding classroom procedures, specials, etc. as the first few days unfold. I am looking forward to meeting you on our first day of school, Tuesday, September 3rd. I know we are going to have a terrific year learning together!

Love,
Mrs. Spina



* We will be taking advantage of the nice weather. Please bring a beach towel and apply sunscreen before coming to school.