

Mrs. Marvin's 4th Grade Language Arts Class

Dear 4th Grade Families,

September 6, 2016

I would like to welcome you to fourth grade here at RES! I will be teaching Language Arts (reading, writing, spelling/word study) to your child for the first half of the day, and teaming with Mrs. Quigley, who will teach math, and science or social studies to your child the second half of the day. I hope that you will find the 4th grade to be a structured, supportive environment, with high expectations for your child. I have an open door policy that I hope you will utilize in order for us to work together to provide the best education for your child. My contact information is listed below.

Our expectations at Rehoboth Elementary are that students act respectfully, responsibly, use safety, and always show excellence! Our discipline procedures involve opportunities for positive recognition as well as teachable learning moments. In room 208 I will use a behavior notebook as a reflection and documentation tool, and an app called Class Dojo to record and share student behavior. Class Dojo allows both parents and students to monitor positive and negative behavior decisions throughout the day. Additionally, Class Dojo app allows me to communicate, privately text, and share photos and announcements electronically with families. Please sign up for Class Dojo using the code in your child's folder on any smartphone, tablet, or computer. The CHSD app, available in the iTunes store, is also a new and fantastic communication tool from the district that we would like to encourage you to use.

In 4th grade there will be some homework assignments and independent reading requirements that students must complete outside of school. Our school and PTO provide students with homework folders and daily agendas to record these assignments. I will stamp or sign their agendas daily to confirm that homework has been written down correctly. We ask that you help by checking the agenda nightly with your child and signing it as a form of communication between your home and the classroom. Along with signing agendas nightly, please check the homework folder regularly for announcements, notes, and graded papers. The district is also moving most announcements to electronic PeachJar flyers, so be sure to check your emails or the CHSD app for this information regularly.

I am looking forward to a productive and positive year together! Please feel free to contact me via phone, email, Class Dojo app, or through the agenda at any time throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Celeste Marvin

Rehoboth Elementary School, room 208

celeste.marvin@cape.k12.de.us

(302)-227-2571 (school), (508)-934-9621 (cell/text)



Welcome!

Mrs. Marvin

4th Grade Language Arts

R.E.S. 302-227-2571 Room 208

Celeste.marvin@cape.k12.de.us

(508)-934-9621 cell/text



Expectations:

Students are expected to follow the student code of conduct and show **Respect, Responsibility, Excellence, and Safety** at school. Our classroom expectations are:

1. Be kind.
2. Be respectful.
3. Be responsible.
4. Follow directions promptly.
5. Try your best!

Behavior Consequences:

☹ If expectations are broken the following discipline procedures will be used, unless actions constitute automatic referrals as indicated in the code of conduct handbook:

1. Student receives a verbal warning.
2. The child briefly records the behavior and indicates any support he/she may need on his or her personal record in the behavior notebook. This serves as a form of documentation and reflection. Class Dojo point loss.
3. The child records in the behavior notebook. The teacher conferences with the child and selects a restorative consequence appropriate to the behavior, depending on the nature of the problem. Class Dojo point loss.
4. A phone call will be made, or a note or behavior incident report sent home.
5. An office referral is issued and the parents will be contacted by the teacher and by the building administration.

😊 When students demonstrate positive behaviors the following rewards are available:

- Daily points on the Class Dojo app
- Star Buck coupons for point gains
- Prize box
- Student of the week or month
- Positive Behavior Referral & recognition on the school-wide announcements
- Honor Roll
- Positive notes and phone calls home
- Special activities, prizes, or privileges in the classroom

Home-School Communication & Collaboration:

- The student agenda is distributed to each student. It is expected that students record homework assignments, have the agenda signed or stamped by their teachers, and bring their agendas home to be signed by a parent or guardian each night. This is an excellent place for teacher-parent notes.
- Each child will be given a white folder that will be returned with school announcements and returned papers to stay at home. They will also use the folder nightly for homework and forms to return to school, if not done electronically.
- Student grade reports will be sent home every mid term and at the end of each marking period and must be signed.
- Please sign up for Class Dojo and the CHSD apps to help us best communicate and share classroom information. Parent sign up codes for Class Dojo are in the white folders. Mrs. Quigley will use this app as well, so messages will come to and from both of us.
- Please contact me as soon as possible with any questions or concerns you may have during the year. I check email several a few times per day and am usually available by phone before and after school hours. If text messages work for you as well, please feel free to send me a text either through Class Dojo or on my cell phone.
- For the office, please send a note with your child's full name, homeroom teacher, and grade level any time a child will have a change in transportation or has been absent, including doctor's notes. If your child will have a planned absence for a trip or vacation, please complete a vacation approval form from the office in advance.
- Your involvement and support in your child's education is the most critical factor in your child's academic success. Thank you in advance for your support and collaboration. I look forward to working with all of the families this year!

Schedule

- 8:15 – 8:30 Homeroom (Students are marked tardy after 8:30)
8:30 - 9:25 Language Arts
9:25 - 10:05 “What I Need” time (W.I.N. – individual support & interventions)
10:05 - 11:05 Language Arts continued.
11:05 – 11:55 Students switch to Mrs. Quigley’s class for math
11:55- 12:25 Lunch
12:25-12:45 Math with Mrs. Quigley Continued.
12:45 - 1:30 Specials (M- Library, T- Gym, W- Computer, TH- Music, F- Art)
1:40 - 2:40 Science or Social Studies
2:45 - 2:55 Return to homeroom, pack up.
2:55 - 3:25 Recess & dismissal to busses or
3:25 Dismissal



Mrs. Marvin's Language Arts Class:

Curriculum

The English language arts (ELA) block requirements call for 90-120 minutes of balanced literacy instruction. This will include whole and small group instruction in reading strategies, daily read alouds, supported student-selected independent reading through daily readers' workshop, and writing mini-lessons and workshops in narrative, informational, and argumentative writing.

As a reading specialist and ELA lead teacher for the grade level and district curriculum team, I am so pleased to share the wonderful steps our district has been taking to improve our reading and writing instruction and materials for students. Our district has purchased the American Reading Company's *100 Book Challenge* leveled library for each 4th grade ELA classroom, along with the *Independent Reading Level Assessment Framework*. These materials will allow us to identify the specific reading strengths and needs of each individual student and guide and support students in self-selected reading at their appropriate levels in order to target their most needed reading skills—and most of all, to create a culture that builds and encourages a life-long love of reading! This will translate into a 30-minute Reading Workshop block within the ELA class in which students will receive individual teacher conferencing and accountable independent reading time.

I will also be piloting the brand new *Benchmark Advance* curriculum within the literacy block framework for the first half of the year with our class. This program is built around the Common Core State Standards for college and career readiness. Our district is exploring this program as an option to purchase in the future to replace our *Imagine-It* materials. I welcome your feedback!

Grading

Assessments = 50% total

Assessments include tests, quizzes, presentations, and projects completed in or out of school.

Classwork= 40%

Work completed in class, small group work, summary checks, & participation account for 40% of the grade. Please be aware that not all missed classwork assignments can be made up depending on the nature of the activity or assignment.

Homework= 10%

Students are expected to read each night for at least 20-30 minutes. Students will have some additional assignments related to writers' journals, word study, and reading response.

***Writing Grades:**

Writing grades will be reported based on the State of Delaware Dept. of Education writing rubrics:

1: Well Below Standard	2: Below Standard
3: Meets Standard	4: Exceeds Standard

CHSD Grading Policy:

A: 93-100 C: 75-84 B: 85-92

D: 70-74 F: 0-69

