

welcome to
4TH GRADE!

Mrs. Ritchey's Class
2022-2023

WELCOME



My Favorite Things

Disney
Earrings
Baking
Reading
St. Louis Cardinals
Bright Colors
Christmas
The Office
Flair Pens
Post-It Notes
Musical Theater

Contact Me

Mrs. Heather Ritchey
heather.ritchey@jcschools.us
Plan Time: 9:00-9:50

Hello, I am Mrs. Heather Ritchey! I am originally from Bowling Green, Missouri and graduated from Hannibal-LaGrange University with a degree in elementary education. After graduating from college, I taught in the Bowling Green School District. After marrying my husband, Mark, I moved to Callaway County and taught in the North Callaway School District. Over the past thirteen years, I've taught K-5 and was a K-3 literacy coach.

Mark and I moved to Jefferson City over the summer. We have a yellow lab named Peyton. In my spare time, I enjoy reading, baking, watching the St. Louis Cardinals, and spending time with my family. Mark and I are the youth leaders in our church and are always planning our next Disney vacation.

I'm excited to be your child's teacher. My goal is to build relationships with students and create lifelong learners and readers. Reading is my passion and I look forward to introducing your child to new literature. I have high expectations for all my students. I encourage all my students to be responsible, be respectful, and be kind.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to an amazing year,

Mrs. Heather Ritchey

SCHEDULE

7:15-7:45	Arrival/Silent Reading
7:45-8:10	Morning Meeting/Leader in Me
8:10-9:00	Writing
9:00-9:50	Specials
10:00-11:30	Math
11:30-11:50	Vocabulary
11:50-12:05	Recess
12:05-12:30	Lunch
12:30-1:45	Reading
1:45-2:00	Recess
2:00-2:30	Science and Social Studies
2:30-2:40	Pack Up

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible. Be a Leader.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

I **love** to have fun in the classroom! We do many exciting things this year, but have to work hard to get there. I expect students to work hard and put forth their best effort each day. Students are expected to stay focused and try their best. Students are held accountable for their work and behavior. At the beginning of the year, we will discuss our classroom incentive system and the class will work together to create a list of logical consequences.

COMMUNICATION

I communicate with families by email. I am available Monday through Friday from 7:00-3:00. I send out a classroom newsletter each Friday. This is the best way to stay informed about what is going on in our classroom. You will find information about special events, links to important items, information about what we are learning, and much more. There will be no paper copies to help be more environmentally friendly!

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Reading

In 4th grade, we will continue to reinforce many of the comprehension skills students have learned in previous grades, and further these with more complex texts. Students will also practice these skills in their own independent reading, and apply these skills in other content areas. We will learn strategies to further strengthen our comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, opinion, and poetry texts.

Students are expected to have 2 books with them, 1 chapter book and 1 book of choice. This could be a picture book or a nonfiction text. When choosing a chapter book, students will learn how to pick a book that is just right for them; not too easy and not too difficult. This Just Right Book, their chapter book, is what they are expected to read during the day during our independent reading time. I also encourage students to take this home each night and read for 20 minutes. A reader should finish a chapter book in 2 weeks.

Spelling, Vocabulary, and Grammar

Each week students will focus on a spelling skill. We will complete a variety of activities throughout the week relating to the spelling skill and will then have a short quiz on Fridays. The word list can be found in the newsletter. Just as we do with spelling, we will complete a variety of activities relating to the vocabulary words or grammar skills and will have a short quiz on Fridays. The vocabulary list or grammar skill can be found in the newsletter.

Math

This year we will continue to reinforce our foundational math skills, practicing our math fact fluency each day. It is **extremely important** that your child know all of his/her basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division math facts. Math facts are the foundation on which all higher math is built. We will continue to work on progressing through fact practice in a variety of ways daily in the classroom. We will apply these skills to different concepts including multi-digit multiplication and division, decimals, fractions, and measurement. In 4th grade, we will also continue building our problem solving skills and stamina.

Science & Social Studies

This year we will cover many topics, including animal adaptations, forces, motion, and simple machines, light, electricity, and earth systems. In social studies we will learn about the history of the United States, our government, and economics.

Leader In Me

Each week we will have class focus to cover a different skill aligning to the Leader In Me 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students. These skills are the foundation to students' success in and out of the classroom.

The logo for LeaderinMe, featuring the word "Leader" in red, "in" in green, and "Me" in blue, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).



Habit 1- Be Proactive- You're In Charge

I am a responsible person.

I take initiative.

I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.

I do not blame others for my wrong actions.

I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 2- Begin with the end in mind - Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

I am an important part of my classroom and schools.



Habit 3- Put First Things First- Work First. Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important.

I say no to things that I know I should not do.

I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.

I am self-disciplined and organized.

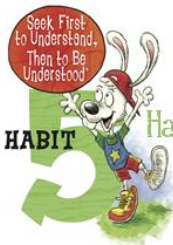
Habit 4- Think Win-Win- Everyone Can Win

I want everyone to be a success.

I don't have to put others down to get what I want.

When a conflict happens, I look for a third solution.

I believe that we all can win!



Habit 5- Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood- Listen Before You Talk

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.

I try to see things from their viewpoints.

I listen to others without interrupting.

I share my opinions and ideas.

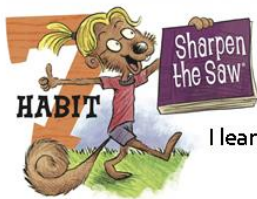
Habit 6- Synergize- Together is Better

I know that everyone is good at something.

Everyone needs to get better at something.

We can all learn something from each other.

Working in groups helps to create better ideas than what one person can do alone.



Habit 7- Sharpen the Saw- Balance Feels Best

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep.

I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to help others.

HOMework & GRADES

Homework

Students will not have assigned homework. Students work hard throughout the day, so need time in the evening to relax. If students are not using time wisely, their work will be homework for the night. At times, students may need to study for a quiz or test.

Absences & Missed Work

In the event that your child has to miss school due to an illness or appointment, please call the office to let them know. I will collect work your child missed so it will be ready for them to complete when they come back. Our classroom is a busy place! Your child will have the number of days missed to complete their work. Good attendance is key to success in the classroom!

Grades

Your child's grades will be based on how well they perform 4th grade level skills. While we complete a lot of work, only a few items are graded and sent home. The majority of your child's work will be used for me to guide instruction. Most assignments are given a 4,3,2, or 1. Tests and quizzes are given the amount of points they are worth. Below is the poster we have in our classroom that students are familiar with.

WHAT DOES MY GRADE MEAN?

4

I understand this skill & have mastered it!
My work is neat & complete
I put forth my best effort

3

I understand this skill
My work is neat & complete
I put forth my best effort

2

I understand this skill with guidance
My work is either not neat or not complete
I could put forth more effort

1

I do not understand this skill
My work is either not neat or not complete
I did not put forth my best effort



Remember you may redo any assignment. This will help you learn and grow! It is your responsibility to ask for help on corrections.

OTHER NOTES

Water Bottle

Students should bring a water bottle each day. Please send a water bottle with a secure lid.

Snack

Students may choose to bring a healthy snack each day if they choose. This should be something healthy and small, such as fresh fruit, fresh veggies, cheese and crackers, etc. This should be in a ziploc bag or closed container.

Gum & Toys

Gum and toys are not allowed in the classroom. Please leave these things at home.

Birthdays

If you would like to send birthday treats in, please make sure they are store bought, individually wrapped, and contain a list of ingredients. It is typically best to avoid anything with nuts. We will enjoy birthday treats at the end of the day before pack up and dismissal.