

**Fourth Grade  
Parent Handbook  
2012-2013**

## Welcome to 4th Grade

The Fourth Grade teachers are looking forward to working with your child this year. This handbook is intended to give you an overview of the policies, procedures, and expectations for the upcoming year. At any time should you have a question, please feel free to contact us. Our email addresses are listed below, or you can leave a message with the office at 389-5025. We will get back with you as soon as possible.

4A– Ms. Flynn     cflynn@illinibluffs.com

4B– Mrs. Roberts   hroberts@illinibluffs.com

4C– Miss Jarrett   lmjarrett@illinibluffs.com

Resource– Mrs. Nelson   cjnelson@illinibluffs.com

### ***Classroom Behavior Plan***

Outlined below is the behavior plan that will be used in the fourth grade classrooms. Our behavior plan follows the stoplight method which students should be familiar with from previous grades.

All students will begin their day with a “blue” card. If a student breaks a classroom rule, they will be required to pull a card for each infraction.

**BLUE = Good Behavior**

**GREEN = 1st Warning**

**YELLOW = 2nd Warning**

**RED = Loss of Recess/4 Part Apology**

If a student reaches the “Red” level. He/she will be required to complete a 4 Part Apology explaining his/her behavior and how the behavior will be corrected. This will be sent home and signed by the parent and returned to school.

***Severe disruptions or infractions may result in a student being sent to the principal. In these situations, a Discipline Notice will be issued.***

You may monitor your child’s behavior by checking the behavior chart in their assignment notebook. Behavior is recorded daily and used to determine Conduct grades.

## ***Grades***

Fourth grade students will receive letter grades in the subjects of Math, Science, Social Studies, Grammar, Reading, and Spelling. The S+, S, S-, and N scale will be assigned to the subjects of PE, Music, and Conduct.

Parents may access their child's grades on PowerSchool by visiting the web address [www.powerschool.illinibluffs.com/public](http://www.powerschool.illinibluffs.com/public). Passwords were sent home with your child the first week of school. If you misplace your password or are experiencing difficulty accessing PowerSchool. Please contact the IBES office at 389-5025.

Fourth grade students will be eligible to earn Honor Roll awards each quarter. Students receiving all A's in the core subjects of Reading, Spelling, English, Math, Science, and Social Studies will receive a High Honor Roll award. Students achieving all A's and B's in those same core subjects will receive an A/B Honor Roll award. Students will be recognized in an all school assembly, and Honor Roll information will be publicized in the Tiger Talk and the Glasford Gazette.

## ***Grading Scale***

A+ 99-100 B+ 92-93 C+ 83-84 D+ 72-73 F 0-64

A 96-98 B 87-91 C 76-82 D 67-71

A- 94-95 B- 85-86 C- 74-75 D- 65-66

## ***Spelling***

Students will work on the same spelling list for a period of two weeks. On the first day of the newly assigned list, the students will be given a pre-test.

Those students who earn a 95% or better on their pre-test will be assigned challenge words.

A student who misses 2-5 words on the pre-test will test over all 20 words on the first final test.

A student who misses more than 5 words on the pre-test will test over words #1-10 on the first final test.

The first final test will be given on the Friday of the first week.

The results of the first final test will determine the course of action for the second final test.

Students earning a 100% on challenge words will have a Fun Friday during the second final test. If they do not earn 100%, the challenge test will be retaken.

Students earning a 95% or better on the first final test will be assigned challenge words for the second final test.

Students that tested over words #1-10 the first week will test over words #11-20 the second week.

During the two week period, students will also be learning the phonetic principles and the definitions related to their spelling list. ***Please note that testing days may vary due to shortened weeks. You may refer to your child's assignment note-book for adjusted testing days.***

### ***Grammar and Writing***

Grammar is an important part of the writing process. We will spend at least a week on each grammar concept to ensure students have a solid understanding of each concept. Quizzes will be given following the study of each concept. Each quiz will cover the concept that was studied and will review previous concepts from the unit. Various games and projects may be assigned to reinforce the understanding of certain concepts. At the end of a unit, a comprehensive Unit Test will be given. Students will be expected in most cases to respond to questions in complete sentences. Essays will also be required throughout the year as they are part of our state tests. Students will also be expected to keep a journal and asked to respond to various writing prompts or prompts related to their reading.

### ***Math***

Math is taught daily from 1:00-2:00 pm. Homeroom teachers will instruct their own classes in Math. Students needing additional assistance in mathematics will receive help during intervention time. Chapters may not always be taught in the order they are presented in the text. In order to cover the required topics prior to ISAT testing, it is sometimes necessary to skip around in the text. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division timings will be administered on a regular basis to strengthen knowledge of basic math facts.

### ***Reading***

Reading stories will be taught over a two week period of time. Vocabulary flashcards will be sent home with students at the beginning of each story. During the two week period, we will focus on learning new reading skills that will strengthen comprehension. Selection tests will be given on the second Friday that the story is taught. Students will not be permitted to use their books for the selection tests. Although we read the story multiple times during the two week period, it is important that they study the story and the vocabulary for the test.

### ***Science & Social Studies***

This will be the third year for our new TCI Social Studies program. It is activity based and promotes higher order thinking skills. Much of the work will be completed in class. Students may occasionally have homework or be asked to bring items to share with the class.

The 4th grade Science curriculum is rather challenging. We do our very best to present the information in a way that every child can grasp the concepts. Students are often given

supplementary materials to help them further understand the concepts in the text.

These materials should be kept in their binders until we are finished with a unit.

Science and social studies are NOT taught simultaneously. To allow the children to focus on the concepts, we will be alternating subjects. We will begin with a brief Map Skills Unit and then process to the first

chapter of Science. Once we have completed the first chapter of Science, we will begin our first chapter of Social Studies.

### ***Accelerated Reader***

Once diagnostic testing is completed, students will be assigned their reading and point levels for Accelerated Reader. The requirement for 4th grade is that each student read **two** books in his/her reading level each quarter. The quiz grades will be part of the overall reading grade for the quarter. It is important that the books are approved by the teacher!! Required books must be within the assigned reading level to count.

Students will also be assigned a point goal based on their individual levels. Students who reach their point goal will receive extra credit in Reading for the quarter. The extra credit will be equivalent of a 100% test grade. Students meeting their point goals will also be treated to lunch in the classroom by the homeroom teacher. Other incentives will be given to students when they reach 25%, 50%, and 75% of their point goals. These incentives may vary by teacher.

Each teacher has an extensive selection of library books within the classroom.

However, this year students are allowed to check out **two** books from the library instead of **one**. One book must be an AR book!

Parents may check their student's AR progress by visiting the website:

***<https://hosted.277.renlearn.com/390788/homeconnect>***

### ***Homework***

Homework is due the morning after it is assigned. Each teacher has a designated area in the classroom to collect homework. Homework that is not turned in on time will be assessed a “Late” penalty. The grade on a late assignment will be reduced by 20%. Homework that is more than 1 day late will be counted as a zero. If a student has a late assignment, they will receive a “HOMEWORK NOT DONE” slip for every assignment that is late. If a student receives 3 or more slips in one week, he/she will be assigned an afterschool detention. Because this is a new policy to 4th grade students, we will not begin issuing detentions until the 2nd quarter. We will be sending home the slips so that you are aware of the late assignments.

Certain projects and larger assignments usually have extended due dates. Please refer to the assignment notebooks for those due dates.

Homework passes can be earned by your child as a reward. These passes can replace a failing grade or be used to raise a grade on a “Late” paper. The students must attach the slip to the paper and return the paper to the teacher. The grade will be replaced with a 100%. Homework passes *may not* be used for quiz, test, AR, or project grades.

Homework passes can be earned as an incentive for AR reading, for completion of incentive charts, and for other activities deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.

### ***Tests In General***

Study guides are provided for tests in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Grammar. The study guides reflect the material that the students will be tested over. If your child knows the material on the study guide, he/she should do well on the test. Study guides are not provided for Reading tests.

### ***Transportation***

Your child will be sent home on the bus if he or she is a bus rider. If other arrangements need to be made, a note is required!

Children who are normally car riders or walkers will be dismissed by the afternoon supervisor. Children who normally attend After Care will be dismissed to that assigned area. Should your child need to ride the bus, a note is also required.

We understand that emergencies do occur. Please contact the office if there is an emergency change in transportation. ***Please do not send these requests via email.***

Many different circumstances could prevent the teacher from receiving an email.

### ***School Website***

Please visit our websites at [www.illinibluffs.com/IBES/teachers](http://www.illinibluffs.com/IBES/teachers)

Our websites often include important information such as daily assignments, educational websites, pictures of class projects and field trips, and other helpful information. Links to our email are also available on our websites.

### ***Assignment Notebooks***

The assignment notebook is a very important organization tool as well as a line of communication between the parent and the teacher. Please check and sign your child's assignment notebook each night. Your child receives incentives for having their notebooks signed.

Information regarding due dates for assignments and projects, upcoming quizzes and tests, and special events at school will be recorded in the assignment notebook. Parents may also choose to send notes or comments via the assignment notebook.