**Fourth Grade Information & Expectations**

Sam Adams Elementary School

August 30, 2017

Fourth grade is a **major transition year** for most students as they move from the primary grades (K – 3rd) to the upper elementary grades (4th – 6th). Students will be expected to stay focused for longer periods of time, do more writing, work cooperatively with a partner or small group, and be able to work independently at times. They will also have more homework. The following is an overview of the fourth grade expectations.

**Homework**: Please check your child’s agenda each afternoon for homework. The agenda will be a primary source of communication between home and school this year. It is typical for children in this transition year to forget they have homework, to put it off until bedtime, or even forget it until the next morning. It is important for students to learn good work habits at this age. The fourth grade policy for homework is it is due the next day (except as noted for special projects). Students will receive 10 points off the first day late, 20 points off the second day late, and 30 points off the third day late. Assignments will not be accepted after the third day (except for absences – please see student handbook).

**Math**: Students should have mastered their basic addition and subtractions facts (0-10) by the end of second grade. Their basic multiplication and division facts (0–10) should have been mastered by the end of third grade. All of the fourth grade Math Modules build on this. Please work with your child at home daily if they have not mastered these basic facts. Mrs. Potter teaches Math to all fourth grade students.

**Reading**: Fourth grade uses the MAISA Reading Units. Through the units, students will develop strong reading habits, analyze characters in text, and read narrative, informational, and historical text. Students will be reading independently, with a partner, and in small groups throughout the year. At home, students should be reading at least 30 minutes most evenings.

**Science**: Sam Adams Elementary School has adopted the HMH Science Dimension Curriculum. Students will use work texts, do labs, and use technology to learn Science. Mr. Staulter teaches Science to all fourth grade students.

**Social Studies**: Students will be studying the states and regions of the United States. Included in each chapter is background history of each region and map activities. Students will be expected to locate & name the states in each region. Mrs. Gustafson teaches Social Studies to all fourth grade students.

**Spelling**: Students will take the beginning of year Words Their Way Assessment during the first couple of weeks of school. Based on the assessment results, students will be placed in a group that meets their individual needs. This assessment will be taken again in January and in May. Groups will be adjusted based on how your child tests.

**Writing**: Sam Adams uses the MAISA Writing Units. Students will be writing Narratives including Realistic Fiction, Persuasive Essays, Literary Essays, Informational Research Writing, and other types of writing as time allows. Also, students will use a Writing Journal most days to build writing fluency.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Additional information will be sent home as needed by individual classroom teachers throughout the year.

Sincerely yours,

4th Grade Teachers: Mrs. Gustafson

Mrs. Potter

Mr. Staulter