

# 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

If you are stressed about fourth grade, please relax. With cooperation and a lot of work from all of us, we'll make it a great and most memorable year! We have many fun things planned for fourth grade, including some exciting science units.

My expectations are set very high for all students. I expect best effort on all that we do. I also ask that students complete and turn in homework assignments when they are due. As a parent/guardian, you can best support your student by monitoring homework, reading with your child as much as possible, and communicating with me regularly. For communication via email, my address is [rachel.casto@jessamine.kyschools.us](mailto:rachel.casto@jessamine.kyschools.us). I will check my email at various times throughout the summer, so feel free to email with questions.

By the end of the first week of school, I will send home a detailed Parent Packet of information that will help you understand how things "run" in our classroom and grade level. I'll also be sending a survey form that I ask parents/guardians to complete to help me better understand your child's likes and dislikes, how he/she learns, etc. Some of this information can be previewed on our class website, which can be found through our school website.

Each week, students will bring home a Thursday Envelope that includes student work, school fliers, and our weekly newsletter. Within these letters, we strive to address all subject areas and keep you fully informed of approximate dates for upcoming events, tests, quizzes, and projects. Please be sure to check them EVERY week. Your child may forget to tell you about something very important. Please keep an eye out for this envelope beginning our first full week of school.

I hope everyone has a great summer and will be ready for a fantastic fourth grade year when the time comes! I can't wait! Be sure to check out and bookmark our class Portal site this summer for some online academic activities ([www.portaportal.com/castosclass](http://www.portaportal.com/castosclass)), and check out our class webpage by going through the NES website. Also, take a look at the back of this letter for information on how to help your child get a HEAD START on 4<sup>th</sup> grade!

Sincerely,  
Rachel Casto

## **Reading**

-Have your child read each and every day throughout the summer. Even if it is simply reading the menu at a restaurant, have your child read!

-Check out the programs at the Jessamine County Library. They have an awesome book selection for kids and they offer programs year-round. You can even win prizes—one year I won a Kindle Fire!

- If your child was at NES in 2017-2018, then he/she should still be able to access Lexia.

## **Math**

-Practice multiplication facts!! Your child should already have his/her addition and subtraction facts memorized from the beginning of third grade. Our focus for 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be on multi-digit multiplication and division. The better your child knows the 1-digit facts, the easier 4<sup>th</sup> grade math will be!

-Have your child help you cook. We will work with fractions A LOT in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Having your child follow recipes will help him/her recognize and add fractions. It will also help with our unit on Measurement (cups, gallons, pounds, ounces, etc.).

-If your child was at NES in 2017-2018, then he/she should still be able to access either MobyMax, SumDog, Prodigy, and/or Dreambox.

## **Science**

-Read science-related books from JCPL. Our science units will include things such as: energy, animals, plants, magnets, light, earth layers and processes, force & motion, and natural hazards.

-Check out videos on [studyjams.scholastic.com](http://studyjams.scholastic.com).

## **Play Outside!**

-It is always great for children to get fresh air, sunlight, and interact with others. Go on a hike, ride bikes around town, visit Salato Wildlife Center. There is so much to do!