

Miss Alderson's Class Handbook



Sunflower Elementary
4th Grade
2018-2019

School Phone: 913-294-8040
My Extension: 3120

Email: laura_alderson@usd368.org
Website: alderson4thgrade.weebly.com

Please sign and return this cover sheet (keep the packet) by Friday, August 17th.

Parent Signature _____



Dear Parents,

Welcome to our fourth grade classroom! I am really excited about this year. I am providing this handbook to inform you of our classroom policies and to explain important information about our school year.

This is my nineteenth year of teaching and my thirteenth year teaching fourth grade. I have also taught grades one through three.

I feel strongly about parents and teachers working together to ensure the success of the students. Therefore, I hope that you will not hesitate to contact me if you ever have questions or are concerned about anything. I am here to teach your child and to help make their fourth grade year a wonderful learning experience. Your support is greatly appreciated. Together we can help them be successful!

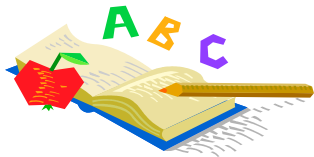
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Sincerely,

Laura Alderson



Language Arts

Language Arts curriculum consists of reading, writing/ grammar, word work, and spelling.

As part of their reading grade, students will need to read an average of 80 minutes per week and record their minutes on a reading log that will be sent home at the beginning of each week. A parent signature is required in order to be accepted. Book It goals and our Price Chopper Party for Pages will also tie in with these reading logs. Students who do not consistently turn in these logs will not be allowed to participate in the Party for Pages at the end of the year.

Spelling

Your child's spelling grade will be based on scores from their spelling lessons.

There will be a new spelling list given on Mondays (or first day of the week). There will be **NO SPELLING TESTS!!!**



Here is a snippet from an article sent to me by Mrs. Wokutch that explains why I've done away with the weekly test:

Weekly Spelling Tests

Generally, all students in a class receive a single list of words on Monday and are expected to study the words for a test on Friday. Distribution of the words, in-class study time, and the test itself use class time. What's the problem?

You've all seen it -- students who got the words right on Friday misspell those same words in their writing the following Monday! Research suggests that the whole-class weekly spelling test is much less effective than an approach in which different students have different sets of words depending on their stage of spelling development, and emphasis is placed on analyzing and using the words rather than taking a test on them (see Palmer & Invernizzi, 2015 for a review).

Even though they will not be responsible for taking a test, we will still practice using the weekly spelling words and/or other spelling lists. If you would like for your child to practice at home, spelling lists will be posted on my website alderson4thgrade.weebly.com and www.spellingcity.com/lalderson. Spelling City is a great website that allows the kids to preview the words, play games to practice the words, and take practice tests.

Math



Sunflower uses the *Everyday Math* program, a rigorous program that goes beyond simple arithmetic. Your child should be bringing their student reference book (SRB) home every day they have math assignments to complete. The student reference book is a very helpful tool for your child to use when completing math work. Students will be given Home Links to complete in class every Monday-Thursday (and sometimes Fridays). However, there may be times they need to do them at home, or they may just need to finish them at home. If that is the case, they should not take more than about 20 minutes to complete. However, there may be times when it takes a little longer, depending on the skill. If your child is consistently struggling with these, or taking much longer than 20 minutes to complete each time, please let me know so that I can help. Students will need to include their name, #, date, and time on each Home Link in order to receive full credit.

Science

Students will receive science instruction from the science teacher, Mrs. Weber, two times a week. Assignments, homework, etc... will be collected and recorded by the science teacher and reported on the grade card.

Social Studies

Social Studies will be done as whole class and collaborative learning this year. Our main focus in fourth grade is learning the regions of the United States, along with the states and capitals. We will be using a curriculum that will integrate our reading skills as well.



District Testing

We will be taking the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests again this year. MAP assessments are achievement tests in Mathematics, Reading, and Language Usage. These tests are taken on the computer and preliminary results can be received almost instantaneously.



This system will also track students and keep their information in the system. This will allow parents to not only see current scores, but growth from year to year.

This testing will begin in September. More information will come home at a later date.

State Assessments will take place in the spring. More information will come home as the time nears.

Outdoor Play

Students will play outside for recess whenever weather permits. Please be sure your child has proper clothing for outdoor play. If your child must stay inside, please send a note from your child's doctor.



Birthday Celebrations

Students wishing to celebrate their birthdays may make arrangements with the teacher to bring treats. Please be aware of possible food allergies. We do have students with food allergies. An opportunity will be given to all students to celebrate their birthdays. Summer birthdays may choose to celebrate their half birthday or celebrate at the end of the year.



Agendas/Planners

The students have an agenda/planner to write their daily assignments in. As they complete an assignment, they should check it off. (See Homework) They also will use these planners to write important reminders. I will use them as a communication tool to keep in contact with you. It will be the student's responsibility to show you their planner. Please look over the day's assignments and sign/initial for that day.

Homework

I don't really assign homework other than reading logs where they will be expected to read a minimum of 80 minutes for the week. At the beginning of the day, students will copy the day's assignment(s) in their notebooks. Time is given during the day for students to complete all to most assignments. However, if a student does not finish the day's assignments in class, it is the responsibility of the student to take home and complete any unfinished work from the day. We will be working on using organizational strategies to help them be successful with this, i.e. highlighting any assignments that need to be finished at home. Everything, unless otherwise noted, will be due the following morning at 8:10.



Late Work

I expect all work to be turned in on time. Late assignments will be graded if they are turned in by the end of the week (or by the following Monday, if the assignment was due on Friday), but later work is subject to receive a lower grade. Students will not be allowed to call home if they forget their work. Students should pack their book bags at night with all the materials needed for the next day. Organization is the key to success!

Grades

With the exception of tests, if a student scores lower than a 60% on an assignment, they will be required to correct the assignment. Also, if they receive lower than an 80% on an assignment, they may take it home, correct it, and turn it back in to improve their score. On all corrections, the student can only score up to an 80% on the corrected assignment.

GRADING SCALE

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F Below 60%



Contacting Me

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. The easiest way to reach me is through email. My email address is laura_alderon@usd368.org. The school phone number is **294-8040** and my extension is **3120**. (The only time you would need my extension is if you were to call after hours to leave me a voicemail.) In this handbook I have included our specials schedule (my planning times). If you need to talk to me, please try to call during one of my planning periods or after school as I will not be able to take your call during class time. You may email me at any time, and I will do my best to respond to you as soon as I can.



Discipline



If a student makes a poor choice in class I will give them a warning and give them the opportunity to correct the behavior. If they continue to make poor choices I will take them aside and talk with them to find a solution together, i.e. writing about what they can do next time, take action to make amends, etc. If the student still has trouble correcting the behavior, they will contact parents, and/or there will be a referral to the office.

Attendance

We begin our day at 8:00 each morning. If for some reason your child gets to school after 8:05, they will be considered tardy. If this happens, please have them stop by the office to sign in before they come to class. This will prevent them from being counted as absent.

Specials Schedule (Planning Periods)



Monday:

P.E.

9:15 – 9:45

Music

9:45 – 10:15

Tuesday:

Science

9:15 – 10:15

Wednesday:

Art

9:15 – 10:15

Thursday

Science

8:15 – 9:15

P.E.

9:15 – 9:45

Music

9:45 – 10:15

Friday:

Computers

9:15 – 10:00

Library

10:00 – 10:45

****Please help your child remember to wear or bring tennis shoes on Mondays and Thursdays, and return library books on Fridays.****