

HALFWAY ELEMENTARY PRESENTS...

Mrs. Padgett's 4TH GRADE SUPERSTAR Handbook



Please leave handbook
in the leadership binder
for future reference.
Handbook can be found
on the class website
under SuperStar Guide.

I have read the classroom handbook with my parent/guardian. I will do my best to learn the 4th grade standards. I understand what is expected of me this year.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

I have looked over each of the eight sections of the handbook and understand the basic policies and procedures of my child's classroom.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Attendance and Grading

Your child's attendance is one of the most important factors in their success. In the unfortunate event that your child is absent, they will be required to make up any work missed. They will have the amount of days missed plus one extra day to complete and turn in this work. I will take grades from a variety of assignments including classwork, tests, projects, quizzes, homework, and participation.

Your child's grade will come from:

60% - Test & Projects

40% - Quizzes, Reading Log, Classwork, & Homework

Grades will be earned on a percentage basis as follows:

A	95-100	C	74-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	F	59 AND BELOW

Books/Supplies checked out to each student

1. Assigned Science Reader (will vary based on unit studying)
2. Math Dictionary
3. Student Dictionary
4. Literature Unit Book – passed out at beginning of unit and collected at end of unit -
Because of Winn Dixie, Charlotte's Web, Lemonade War, Frindle
5. Scissors
6. Protractor
7. Ruler
8. Large Red Work Box

All items are checked out based on your child's number and will be their responsibility during the school year. It is important that they keep track of these items and keep them in good condition. Any item lost or damaged will incur a replacement fee.

Communication

*Each student will have a **take home folder** that they will bring home each night. Please check this folder daily. I will include important papers to be returned and to keep home.

*Each student will also have a **planner** that will be filled out each day and sent home on Friday's. This will list the important dates, such as test and project due dates, and notes from

the teacher. This needs to be signed by a parent/guardian. I will be checking for signatures each Monday morning. The planner only needs to be signed once for the week. Students who have unsigned planners will incur a classroom economy fee of \$50. It is the student's responsibility to remember to get it signed. **Newsletters** are sent home each Monday (unless it is a short week of school), which will let you know what is going on in our classroom and what we are studying.

*As a part of the 7 Habits the students learn responsibility. The **Leadership Binders** serve as a Data Notebook where your child will record test, quiz and project grades, along with graphing data (based on grades to show growth), STAR Data throughout the year, and a weekly communication form with comments from me about academics and/or classroom behavior, as well as a spot for you to express concerns or celebrate with your child. Leadership Binders will be checked Monday's and students who do not have parent communication sheet signed will incur a classroom economy fee of \$50. If we do not update our Leadership Binders in any given week then the binder will NOT go home.

*We will have a **class website** that will keep you updated with classroom events, homework, and links to academic resources. The best way to contact me is through **email**. Each week when I send home the newsletter, I will also email the newsletter to prevent the "I never got it" or "I can't find mine" excuses. I encourage you to read the newsletter each week. Most of what is going on in the classroom can be found in the newsletter.

Newsletter – sent home Monday's

Planner & Leadership Binder – sent home Friday's & checked Monday's for signatures

Reading Log – Due Monday's

Reading and Written Responses

A very important part of 4th grade is the students learning how to effectively answer questions with complete responses in order to show comprehension of stories/literature. In 4th grade reading comprehension is not always identified through direct evidence from the stories or text. Often the answer is inferred using context clues; which is why a thorough response is important in demonstrating understanding.

Strategy Expectations:

Students will use the context clues found within a story as evidence in answering comprehension questions and using evidence to write a thorough written response. If direct evidence cannot be found then the students can explain why they chose the answers they did, but this type of evidence must be a cohesive thought as to why the answer they chose was the right one. When explaining chosen answers students may not put "because the story said" or "it's what I thought the answer was". Evidence allows the teacher to see if they comprehend the passages or are choosing random answers. This is expected on every assignment, though the teacher will indicate the depth level of the response (whether A, C, and/or E is to be used).

How the strategy works:

A – Answer the question that is being asked by restating and answering

C – Cite evidence: use examples and evidence from the text to support your answer

E – Extend your response: explain your answer using your own prior knowledge and examples from your personal experiences *Must include a concluding sentence that wraps up the your purpose for writing

Note: Response should flow and not sound choppy, as well as, be checked for grammar, capitalization, and punctuation errors.

Student Sample of an ACE Response:

Excerpt from passage read: "...One force that helps you move is gravity. Gravity pulls objects toward each other, and so gravity pulls you towards Earth. Why? Earth is bigger and heavier than you are, so you're pulled by Earth's gravity. How does that help you? When you take a step, gravity pulls on your foot. That pulling helps you put your foot down. Then, you can mover your other foot. When you sit down, gravity keeps you stationary in your seat..."

Prompt: "Imagine that gravity does not exist. What do you think it would be like to walk without gravity?"

1st Student Response: *Without gravity all of us would float. I think that without gravity it would not be a good thing because we could not stay on the ground and do things. On page 91 the author says, "Gravity pulls objects toward each other, and so gravity pulls you toward Earth. When you sit down, gravity keeps you stationary in your seat." My experience with gravity is that gravity holds down everything that you can see and touch. Next time sit in a chair and think about what it would be like if we had no gravity.*

2nd Student Response: *It would probably be hard to walk without gravity because gravity is what helps us stay on the ground. It also helps us move. "When you take a step, gravity pulls on your foot. That pulling helps your foot go down." (pg 91) If the world had no gravity there would probably be no earth to walk on because you wouldn't be able to walk. That is probably what would happen if there was no gravity.*

This Strategy is important because:

1. A detailed answer lets the reader or listener know what we are writing or talking about.
2. It helps us remain clear on what we are writing or talking about.
3. It builds and deepens student comprehension in reading; whether fiction or nonfiction.
4. It promotes critical thinking.

  **Classwork/Homework**  

Each day after a lesson, I will assign students independent work for them to work on individually. This is my way of assessing whether a student has learned the taught skill or not. At this point students will need to try their best to do this assignment on their own. Questions are encouraged to be asked during guided learning time. I use independent work time to work with students who may need help on a previous day's skill, so I am minimally available for questions during this time. If a student is still having a hard time with the learning for the day I

encourage them to communicate that to me through my mailbox, so that I can make sure to meet with them. Independent work expectations:

- *Follow ALL written and verbal directions.
- *Work silently
- *Produce best work/quality work
- *Neat handwriting
- *Use allotted class time wisely to avoid homework

All classwork is to be done each day **in class**. If any assignment is incomplete at the end of the day, then the students are responsible to take incomplete work home and have it turned in the next day for credit. If the assignment is **not** turned in by the morning of the next day then the assignment will be late and incur a classroom economy \$50 fee. It is important that students work efficiently in class, **prioritizing their work** to ensure that it is complete before they leave at the end of the day. Even though students may not turn in an assignment on time, they are still required to turn it in complete so that I can see if they are understanding the concept being taught. Students will incur a classroom economy \$50 late fee each day until the assignment is turned in. Students with several missing assignment will be required to attend Friday school as per district policy. **RESPONSIBILITY** and **FOCUS** is key!

Reading Log

Each week the student have a goal to reach 150 minutes. Students should be reading grade level appropriate book. This time can be spent silent reading or reading aloud to a parent, sibling, friend, etc. Students may use classwork, such as Reading, Science, or Social Studies towards reading log minutes. Students who reach that goal each week will receive a classroom economy \$50 bonus. Each student will receive a Reading Log book called "Reader Meter Journal" which is their log for the whole year. It should be kept in their daily take home folder unless filling it out or turning it in. Students will also be given a folder for Reading Log assignments.

Reader Meter Journal – At the beginning of each week your child will need to write Monday's date in the Week of blank. Each day your child reads please help them fill out their journal, including: Title of book, author, and check whether fiction or nonfiction, genre, color smiley face as to whether they liked the book or not, and fill in the minute meter. Please initial the reading log **each night** acknowledging that your child completed minutes and write the minutes read in the same box as initials. At the end of each week your child will need to total their minutes using the provided boxes and complete a paragraph using a chosen reading skill about one of the books they read during the week. Students who misplace theirs will be charged \$2.50 for a replacement. **I will not accept reading log minutes in any other alternate form.**

Reading Log Folder– In the folder you will find a reading log menu and monthly book report requirements. The purpose of the menu is to build reading comprehension skills. For each activity a student completes a parent/guardian will need to sign off on the menu. When a student turns in an activity they will receive an additional classroom economy bonus of \$25. Activities from the menu should be labelled and turn in only with the reading log on Monday's. Students will be required to complete one book report per month that will coincide with that month's genre study. I want the students to get to see and experience all types of genres. The information for each book report

will be found in the folder along with due dates and expectations. This is typically a self-motivated assignment. Students will need to Begin with the End in Mind by making a plan to get it finished.

The students who are consistent about reading books at their level will greatly benefit because reading builds vocabulary, opens minds up to new ideas and can be a great way to relax after a long day of school. I understand that reading can feel like a chore for some. If your child is having a hard time finding books to read please let me know and I will do my best to find something to help them and encourage them to read.

SuperStar Folder

Each student will be provided with a SuperStar Folder that will have extension activities that your student can do to help them with their daily learning. In the folder you will find a math fact practice guide to promote multiplication and division math fact fluency, a reading menu with activities to promote reading comprehension, and a spelling menu full of fun ideas of different ways to study spelling words. Each month there will also be the book report requirements with a timeline to help them keep on track and the due date.

Missing Work

Students have the responsibility to turn in **all** of their work **on time**. I will **not** be seeking out missing work from students. The back white board will have missing assignments posted, so your child needs to make sure to check the board each day. Students are provided a planner that they are to keep up-to-date with current assignments, as well as a newsletter that is sent home weekly with important due dates. Students should know at all times what they have and have not turned in. Students with an excessive amount of missing assignments, parents/guardians will be contacted because it is impeding their learning by having missing work. I **do not** make extra copies of papers in order to save school resources, so the only way to get a new copy of an assignment is by either paying a classroom economy fee of \$10 per assignment or attending Friday School. You are always welcome to check with me if when you are signing the planner if you have questions or want to make sure everything is turned in. The best way to contact me is through email cpadgett@halfwayschools.org. This gives me a chance to find the information you are seeking and respond quickly. **NO EXCUSES** is key!

Technology

In order to enhance your child's learning, I utilize online programs, such as:

mobymax.com – students will be assigned assignments, quizzes, tests, and skill practice in all content areas – I do take grades from the assigned work

xtramath.org – students will use this program daily to practice their math facts; students are expected to make progress each week; progress will be logged in their leadership binder.

ixl.com – extra practice for targeted math skills; students are only to be doing 4th grade level work

Student's login information can be found taped on the inside of their 5 subject notebook.

💰 SuperStar Leadership Economy 💰

Throughout the school year I will be implementing a Classroom Economy. It is going to be awesome. How many of us adults left high school and entered the "real world" without any clue as to how to manage money? For me it was mostly guess and test, a budget was a foreign concept. From an early age kids receive money for birthdays and holidays, how cool would it be if they didn't just spend it all on the newest and coolest trendy toy. As a part of the 4th grade curriculum students are introduced to economics and what better way to learn it then through actual real life experience.

Students will apply for classroom jobs/leadership roles, participate in an interview, and will earn a monthly paycheck for the leadership roles that they hold in the classroom. While this will excite most, students will be charged rent on their desks; which is greater than their monthly paycheck. Rent is set at \$1000. Leadership role salaries range from \$500 to \$700. Students will need to earn bonus money to supplement their income by getting good grades, turning in their work, making good choices, helping out another classmate, etc. On the flip side, students could incur fees that will negatively impact their income by choosing to be dishonest, being a messy tenant (messy desk), disruptive classroom behavior, missing work, etc. Students who are unable to pay rent will be evicted from their desk and will incur a fine of half their next paycheck. Eviction lasts for a day and will not impede a student's learning. The evicted student will not be able to use their desk and will have the choice to work in their chair with their clipboard or sit on the floor with a clipboard. In order for the student to receive their desk back they must complete a think sheet to help them avoid future evictions in the months to come. This is in no way to embarrass students but to teach them cause and effect along with the life lesson of how economics works in the real world.

We'll also have a little fun with it. After paying rent, students can save money to spend at a quarterly store where they get to spend on items on special items. The store is not guaranteed and the only students who will shop are those who don't have any missing work. The students will certainly enjoy themselves, and I know you will appreciate the skills and knowledge they learn along the way.

The classroom economy helps children to learn valuable life skills such as organization, the value of saving, and delayed gratification. Rather than being told about the importance of these skills, they actually experience them. In addition, the system fits in well with the other parts of our curriculum.

Don't be surprised if your child comes home one day with questions about paying rent, or ways to earn money. You might find it a great opportunity to have a thoughtful discussion about financial responsibility.

Side Note: We welcome any small items you would like to contribute to our store that the students would enjoy.

 Final Thoughts....

Ultimately, I expect each student to use the 7 habits to make good choices to orchestrate their success. During lesson times is where students need to pay attention so that when it is work time the students know what to do. Classwork time is independent time for the students to figure out on their own the learned skills. I will not help at this time. I want them to develop their independent thinking skills. I will however grade classwork each day and pull aside students who are struggling in their work; which is why completing daily classwork is so important. Every child can be successful in 4th grade, but it will take being diligent in their work and communicating when stuck or frustrated.

Let us have a SUPER STELLAR year!!!!

For a more comprehensive handbook please access the District Elementary Handbook at www.halfwayschools.org