

**Spark
Matsunaga
Elementary
School**



Fourth Grade News!

**Volume 2
OCTOBER**



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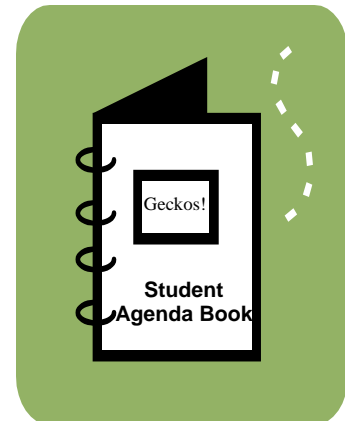


General Information

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It's hard to believe we are already half way through the first quarter! The students have been learning so much from the fourth grade curriculum. We look forward to working with you and your child this year. For student success, we stress the importance of maintaining communication throughout the year. Please use the many avenues of communication such as email, notes in the agenda books, etc... to stay updated with your child's academic program.

We are very excited to be off and running, and are looking forward to a successful year!



Your child's agenda book is a great tool for organization! Please stay involved with your child's work and check their agenda for all homework.

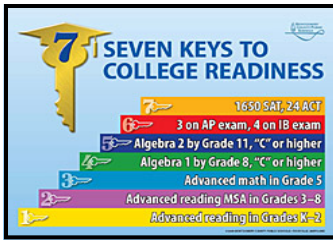
Instrumental Music Notes:

- Instrumental music class times change each week. Please make sure your child knows which week it is (A,B,C, or D) and what time their class is held.
- If your child is taking an instrumental music class, it is a good idea for them to have a buddy that can inform them of what they missed while they are out of class.
- Please remind your student that they should always find out what they miss from class during instrumental music.



Dates to Remember!

- October 12th — CLASSROOM OPEN HOUSE 9:00—12:00
- October 16th — MSTA CONVENTION—NO SCHOOL
- October 29th — Agriculture Farm Field Trip (permission slip sent home next week)
- October 30th — End of first Marking Period
- October 30th — Halloween Parade 1:30 and Parties 2:15



7 Keys to College Readiness

The 7 Keys to College Readiness are building blocks for your child's achievement. The pathways suggested by "The 7 Keys" give you and your child goals for helping them increase their chance for success in college. For more information about The 7 Keys, please visit www.mcps7keys.org.

SEVEN KEYS TIP

Readiness Key #2



The second key suggests "Advanced Reading on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in grades 3-8."



Create a **culture of literacy** at home. Embrace reading with your child by participating in authentic reading opportunities (i.e. newspapers, magazines, cooking recipes)

TUTORING & MENTORING PROGRAM:

Attached to this newsletter you will find information about The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc. This tutoring and mentoring program can be very helpful for assisting your child with school work, study skills, and test taking skills.

The program takes place Saturday mornings from 8:30am-11:30am, and is held locally at Northwest High School. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to provide your child with additional academic support!

For more information, please see the attached flyer or call the Office of the Executive Director at 301-320-6545.

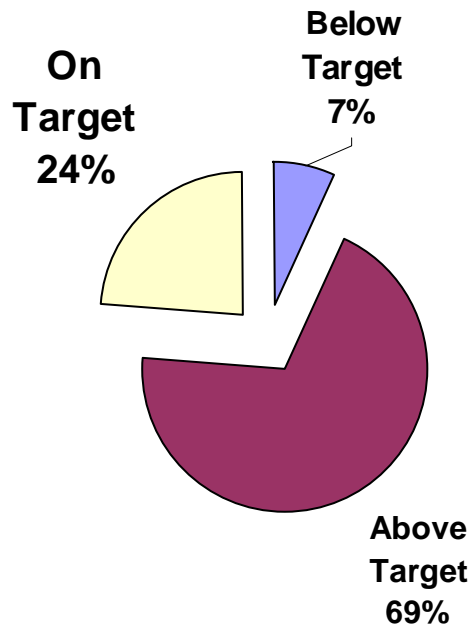
FOURTH GRADE DATA REPORT

In each newsletter, look for our "Fourth Grade Data Report." This section will provide statistical measures that reflect the fourth grade progress in reading and math.

This month our data reflects our ongoing assessment of **reading progress**. In September, students took the first of three MAP-R reading assessments which are used to measure their reading growth throughout the school year. The MAP-R score is used as data to track and monitor students' progress, and to help students set goals.

Students have analyzed their MAP-R data from 3rd grade in order to set goals for this year.

Fall MAP-R Results



For the fall MAP-R, students have achieved target if their score ranges between 201-207. Students are above target if they have achieved a score of 208 or higher.