

Welcome Back!

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Special points of interest:

- ✓ **Please return ALL school paperwork promptly**
- ✓ **Don't forget to send payment for your child's agenda**
- ✓ **Due to allergy concerns, please refrain from sending in treats for your child's birthday — instead, birthdays are celebrated during morning announcements**

The fourth grade teachers would like to take this opportunity to once again welcome you and your child to another school year. Although we have to wave goodbye to summer, the 2009-2010 school year promises to be exciting, engaging, and exceptional!

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. We stress the importance of maintaining communication throughout the year. Please use the many avenues of communication we have, such as email, notes in your child's agenda books, or a phone call if you have a question or concern. This will

ensure a more successful academic program, in addition to allowing us the opportunity to stay updated with your child's needs.

We are thrilled to be off and running and are looking forward to an outstanding year!



Please review your child's agenda book each night to keep updated on daily events.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brown

Mrs. Yates

Ms. Gath

Mrs. Fitch

Mrs. Moon

Mrs. Kay

Dates To Remember

- September 28th — No School — Yom Kippur
- October 2nd — Early Release
- October 12th — Columbus Day — Open House
- October 16th — No School — National Teacher's Convention

SCIENCE

Fourth graders will be learning about ecosystems and studying what plants and animals need to grow and survive, as well as the how living and nonliving things make up an ecosystem.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In Social Studies, students will be reviewing map skills and geography concepts from third grade. A major component of Social Studies during the first marking period is preparation for our Native American research project.

Reading & Language Arts:

During the first marking period, fourth graders will be working on the genres of fantasy and fables. We will be exploring the characteristics of these genres, and working on comprehension skills and strategies.

The writing focus is for students is writing for personal expression by creating a personal narrative. Students will also use writing to communicate in daily assignments.

Students will rotate each week between vocabulary study with *Wordly Wise*, and Spelling lists with a spelling packet. Each week a test will be given for either vocabulary or spelling, depending on the unit of study.

Students will be required to have read 25 books **independently by the end of the school year**. Please encourage your child to read a book of their choice **every night** for **at least 20 minutes**, in order to complete 6-7 books per quarter.

Mathematics:

Fourth Grade Math—Students are learning about place value, data and statistics and geometry.

Fifth Grade Math—Students are learning about number patterns and number theory, which includes the study of prime and composite numbers, factors and multiples.

Math A—Students are learning to use measurements of central tendency (mean, median, and mode) to interpret data and statistics.

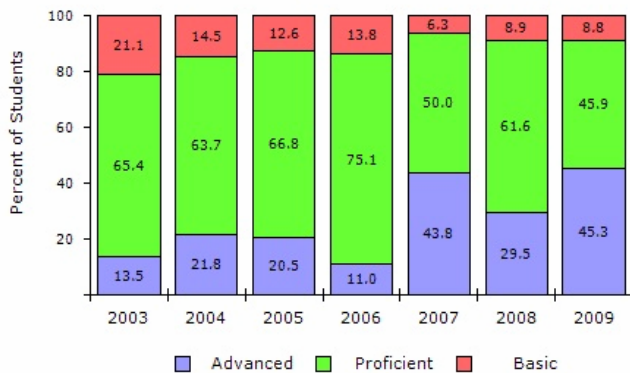
All students should continue to study their basic facts, and complete math homework each night to reinforce concepts taught during class.

Helpful Math Links:

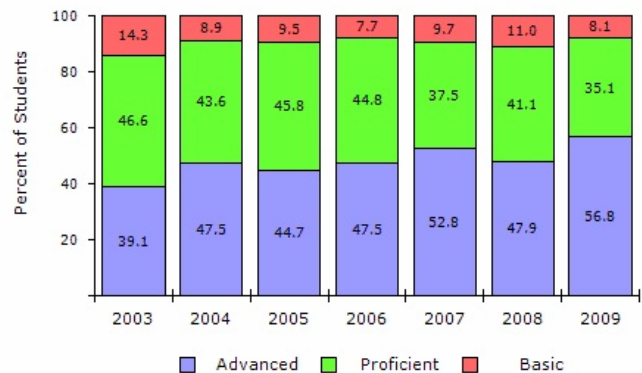
1. *National Library of Math Manipulatives* — helpful for a variety of topics and grade levels
 - <http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>
2. *A Math Dictionary* — Includes definitions for concepts and skills
 - <http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jeather/maths/dictionary.html>

Fourth Grade Data Center

MSA Proficiency Levels - Grade 3 - Reading



MSA Proficiency Levels - Grade 3 - Mathematics



In Reading, **45.3%** of third graders entering fourth grade were **advanced** in reading, **45.9%** were **proficient**, and **8.8%** were **basic**.

In Math, **56.8%** of third graders entering fourth grade were **advanced** in math, **35.1%** were **proficient** in math, and **8.1%** were **basic**.

Our goal as a fourth grade team is to **increase the amount of students achieving at the advanced level**, and **decrease the amount of students achieving at the basic level** by constantly assessing students' needs and providing the support and enrichment needed for success!