



DR. RONALD E. McNAIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



GRADE 4 NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER

Learning • Growing • Reaching Higher | Honoring Dr. Ronald E. McNair & the Challenger Crew

ELA

Unit 1 focuses on personal narratives and the power of telling our own stories. Throughout the unit, students read and analyze narratives to understand how experiences shape a person's identity, while developing skills such as identifying main ideas and supporting details, character traits, sequence, cause and effect, point of view, vocabulary in context, and text evidence. Students examine how authors use sensory details, dialogue, thoughts and feelings, precise language, and "show, don't tell" techniques to make their writing engaging. They then apply these skills to their own personal narratives by organizing events in a logical sequence, developing strong beginnings and endings, and reflecting on why an experience was meaningful.

MATH

Unit 1 focuses on building students' understanding of multiplication, factors, multiples, arrays, area, and numerical patterns. Students use visual models, equations, and problem-solving strategies to strengthen their understanding of multiplication and recognize relationships among numbers. Students identify factors and multiples, distinguish between prime and composite numbers, use arrays and area models, analyze patterns, and explain their mathematical reasoning.

SCIENCE

Unit 1 focuses on energy and how energy can be transferred and transformed. Students investigate motion, light, sound, heat, and electrical energy and explore how energy moves from one place or object to another. Through hands-on investigations, observations, models, and discussions, students examine how the speed of an object relates to its energy and how collisions can transfer energy and change motion.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Unit 1 focuses on geography and how geography influences people, communities, and the development of Maryland and the United States. Students strengthen their understanding of maps, regions, physical and human characteristics, natural resources, and human-environment interaction while examining how people adapt to and modify their surroundings.

★ **SEPTEMBER FOCUS:** Building strong routines, strong relationships, and strong learning habits. ★



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Mrs. Shull

I watched my kids play sports. I also took a vacation to Myrtle Beach, SC and Deep Creek Lake.

Mr. Newman

I taught summer school for the month of July and vacationed in Williamsburg, VA, and Kentucky with my family.

Ms. Rossman

This summer was quiet and educational for me. I spent most of my time with my family. My eldest daughter and I would go to the Germantown Swim Center at least twice a week, and we also took up kettlebells this summer. At home I took up some new hobbies. I started hydroponic gardening and growing microgreens. I also learned to make yogurt from soybeans.

Mrs. Danielson

I like to spend the summer visiting family and getting together in fun places. This past summer I spent a week at the lake in Connecticut where I fished and swam and enjoyed canoeing with my husband's family. I also spent a month at the farm in Wisconsin where I grew up. I ended the summer with a week at the beach in North Carolina with lots of siblings and nieces and nephews. In addition, I taught VBS for two weeks this summer where I got to sing and dance with lots of children, some in Maryland and some in Wisconsin. I love the summer!

IMPORTANT DATES — SEPTEMBER

Monday, September 7 — Labor Day — Schools and offices closed

Thursday, September 17 — Back to School Night — 6:30–8:00 PM

Friday, September 18 — Early Release Day for Students

Saturday, September 19 – PTA One Kick Spirit Night

Monday, September 21 — Non-Instructional Day — No school for students or teachers

September 25 – PTA Back to School Blast

NOTES & REMINDERS

A successful school year is a team effort between students, families, and teachers! Please help your child come to school on time, prepared, well-rested, and ready to learn each day. Encourage your child to read regularly, complete assignments, practice important skills, and take responsibility for their learning and behavior. Please check backpacks and school communications often for important information and reach out whenever you have questions or concerns. Most importantly, continue to encourage effort, celebrate growth, and remind your child that mistakes are part of learning. Working together, we can make this a positive, productive, and successful year for every student!

Questions or celebrations to share? We value strong school-family communication!

