



Mr. Huyck's Fourth-Grade Classroom
Additional Classroom and School Information
2024-2025



Dear families,

Welcome to the new school year and to our fourth-grade class! Thank you for taking a few minutes to read the following additional classroom and school information. It will better inform you about our classroom and school routines and expectations.

(If not done so yet) please complete these items:

- Send to Mr. Huyck a brief paragraph (or two) about your child (interests, goals, need to know information, etc.).
- Let Mr. Huyck know of any updates to your child's dismissal plans.
- Consider donating a box of facial tissues (if yes, send in anytime).
- Send in a labeled pair of headphones, in a labeled plastic bag.
- Send vegetable/fruit snacks for your child each day.
- Send a refillable water bottle each day.
- Attend Curriculum Night on Wednesday, 9/11 (5:40 is our classroom presentation).

Curriculum Night: Please plan to join us at our Curriculum Night, Wednesday, September 11. This is a great opportunity to meet Mr. Huyck, engage in discussion, hear information about our classroom/school, and discover our goals and expectations.

Here is the timing for the evening:

5:30 Meet our staff members (on the playground)

5:40-6:30 Mr. Huyck's presentation in our classroom

6:35-6:50 Presentation from our principal, Mrs. Clinkscale, in the MPR

Student Information: I have truly appreciated the responses & information received so far, finding them to be helpful in getting to know the students better. I would love to learn more about your child from your perspective. Please take a few minutes to provide a brief message that helps me get to know your student better. If you would prefer, you can also send the note via a sealed envelope. Pass on information that would help me better understand and learn more about your child. I would especially like to hear how your child learns best, areas of strengths or in which to grow (such as goals; they can be academic or other), interests, or maybe any current concerns or immediate goals. In the

past I have always found this information to be valuable and it helps us have a great start to the school year.

Dismissal Plans: Please email Mr. Huyck with any necessary updates to your child's dismissal plans.

Snacks: Our goal is to have small, healthy snacks. Please send in vegetable or fruit snacks for the initial weeks of school as we further evaluate food allergies. Send snacks both morning and afternoon. Students can eat as they work independently, during breaks, or while listening to directions.

Headphones: Please send in a pair of headphones for your child. Label both the headphones and the bag. I do have a few extra pairs. Please let me know if your child needs to borrow a pair for the year.

Star Student: As a way to highlight each child as a unique and special person, create a sense of belonging, and to aid in classroom management and organization, each child will have numerous opportunities throughout the year to be our *Star Student* (our extra special person) for the day.

We will be rotating daily, with each child taking on the role as our Star Student for one day at a time. Once all students have enjoyed their first opportunity as Star Student (round one) we will then rotate through our second round (and then continue subsequent rounds until the end of the year).



Here are some of the typical jobs/roles that Star Students assist with each day: teacher assistant, reading the daily schedule, line leader, messenger, whiteboard eraser, lights, Bingo Draw, and more.

For the first-round students will share their *All About Me* webs that we have completed in class. This will help classmates further get to know each other. For our second-round students will bring in a few representative items to share with classmates (similar to the Bag/Box sharing we did the second day of school). **Here are our Star Students for this week: 9/3 Ava, 9/4 Claire, 9/5 Raj, & 9/6 Yahya.**

Breaks/Recesses: We will have a reasonable length recess every morning. In the afternoons we have less in-class instruction time, due to our special classes being in the afternoons. Thus, we will enjoy an inside break. In general, enjoy numerous short breaks throughout the day, generally in-between our subjects and during transitions. We also enjoy a long lunch recess.

NWEA: We will take the NWEA assessments three times per year: September, January, and May. Our September dates will be Monday, 9/9, & Wednesday, 9/11 (both around 9:30). Make-up days will be Tuesday, 9/10, and Thursday, 9/12.

Friday Folders: On Fridays your child will bring home a folder with teacher & school notes, checked and returned student work, and a small amount of homework to complete. Please keep in mind that there will be fewer papers arriving home, as most items are sent electronically. Return the folder to school.

Regarding Homework: Just like adults, students work hard all day. And, similar to adults, they need time to rest, recharge, and to enjoy other important parts of life. We believe that students should have minimal homework so that they will have time to relax, explore other interests/hobbies, exercise, try extra-curricular activities, and, most importantly, recharge for the next day of school. We all do better with positive distractions, exercise, rest, and a good night's sleep. Personal wellness is essential for us all. Students have plenty of time during middle school to transition to greater amounts of homework.

A small amount of homework will be assigned. Items such as: Lexia, DreamBox, reading at home, math facts practice, completing unfinished work from the classroom, etc.

Birthdays: Please remember that if your child wishes to recognize a birthday, that we are supporting only non-food treats. A few quick ideas are: a book (or other item) donated to the classroom, special stickers, small notebooks, fun pencils or erasers. Additional ideas can be researched on the Internet, or you could discuss with a fellow parent. Let Mr. Huyck know if you wish to send in treats, want to donate an item. **Also, please know that teachers cannot distribute or forward birthday invitations, whether in-person or via email. Nor can they provide email addresses. Please see the PTO reference for email addresses/phone numbers.**

Donation to consider: We use many facial tissues throughout the year. Please consider donating one box per family. Thank you.

Information for parents (newsletters/updates & website): There are a few forms of communication that will be utilized to keep you informed about our classroom and school activities. Our Schoology and class websites have valuable links and information. These sites include informational documents, access to newsletters/updates, a calendar of upcoming important dates and activities, and other misc. items.

One of our best forms of communication will be the newsletters/updates send out via email, and available on our website. Usually on Sundays I will send out the most pertinent information about what's been happening in and around our classroom, with items connected to the upcoming week and beyond. I trust you find it a helpful resource in which to learn more details about your child's classroom and school life. Many parents use the emailed notes as a tool to help probe their students for additional information.

Our class website:

<http://www.a2schools.org/Domain/1628>

Our weekly schedule (please know that it's a work in progress, and may need to be revised):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12jbc4RP8cxll9Xwwwmc_gA1BJluG-RsK/edit?gid=143570637#gid=143570637

Special Classes Schedule (as of 8-23-24)

Mondays

2:40-3:40 PTLW

Tuesdays

2:40-3:40 Library

Wednesdays

2:40-3:40 Music & Gym

Thursdays

9:00-9:30 Humanities

2:40-3:40 Art

Fridays

2:40-3:40 Gym & Music

Thank you for taking time to read through our essential information. Please join us at Curriculum Night, Wednesday, 9/11. I look forward to working with you and your student this year. If you have additional questions, please feel free to email me at huyck@aaps.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,

-Mr. Huyck