

Dripping Springs Elementary

29400 Ranch Road 12

(512) 858-3700

welcome to 4th Grade

Fourth Grade Information

Dear Parents,

 We are very excited to be working with your child as he/she explores and learns the fourth grade curriculum. The fourth grade team believes in the importance of working together with parents to create a meaningful learning experience for all students. We hope that you will contact us if you have any questions or concerns. In this handout you will find information to get the year off to a great start!

Sincerely,

The Fourth Grade Team



# Attendance

Students are expected to be on time each day. Instruction begins promptly at 7:45. Students arriving after 7:45 are marked tardy and those arriving after 8:45 are counted absent. It is required to provide a written note or email to Diane Briscoe if your child has been absent including the **date, teacher’s name, student’s full name**, as well as the reason for the absence. Help support our school wide WIG of improving attendance.

# Clothing

As weather permits, we will have outside recess each day. Please wear appropriate shoes on PE days. Comfortable clothing is essential and girls should wear shorts under dresses and skirts. Just a reminder, per school dress code, spaghetti strap tops and flip-flops are not allowed.

# Helpful Websites/Links

#### Snacks

Students are welcome to bring a healthy snack. Please avoid the “four C’s”…candy, cakes, cookies, and chips. Although water is available, a personal water bottle can help your child stay well hydrated throughout the day.

**DSISD:** http://www.dsisdtx.us

**TEA:** [www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/index.html](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/teks/index.html).

**Pearson:** [**www.pearsonrealize.com**](http://www.pearsonrealize.com)

**Dreambox:https://play.dreambox.com/login/2v6u/drippingse**

**iStation:http://isip.istation.com/Default.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f**

**Stemscopes: www.stemscopes.com**

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**Study Hall/Walking at Recess**

4th grade will have study hall during recess. This will be used to complete unfinished work. Parents will be notified if this becomes excessive. Walking at recess or community service will be used as a behavior management tool.

**Classroom Management**

* DSE will continue with The Leader In Me

 campus leadership model this year.

* Students will continue to receive Cool Cat Cash for positive behavior.
* Each classroom teacher will determine her classroom management procedures.
* A school wide PBS behavior tracking system, Tiger Tracks, will communicate behavior weekly. Rewards will be given based on good behavior.

**Volunteers**

Parent Volunteers are wonderful - please let your teacher know if you would like to volunteer in the classroom or in the workroom. Please review the PTA volunteer opportunities and sign up if you are interested.

## Homework

The fourth grade team believes that homework not only teaches children responsibility and management skills but also reinforces concepts taught in class. We follow a system that we hope will be helpful to students and parents.

* Homework is assigned by each classroom teacher and should not exceed 45 minutes, with 20 minutes of that time dedicated solely to reading. Please notify your child’s teacher if their nightly assignments take more than 45 minutes on a regular basis.
* Your child will have a spelling or language skill test every other week based on 4th grade language TEKS.
* PAW - Students will have a writing assignment during the week (***P***aragraph ***A*** ***W***eek that eventually becomes **P**age **A** **W**eek).
* iStation and Dreambox are computer based programs that will be assigned as needed for academic practice.
* Students will bring home graded papers and announcements on Thursday. Please review the information and keep all graded work at home. Please monitor grades in Family Access.

# Formative Assessment (Academic Practice): assessment that is designed to provide direction for both students and teachers while student is still learning the concept

**Summative Assessment** (Academic Achievement): assessment designed to provide information to be used in making judgment about a student’s achievement at the end of a sequence of instruction on a concept

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# Field Trips

The fourth grade will take two field trips this year:

**Fall** Redbud Center Colorado River Authority- This will be hands-on investigations and activities about water conservation.

**Spring** Bob Bullock Museum- This field trip will be an enriching and culminating activity for our year- long study of Texas. We are in the planning stages right now, but information will come home as field trip days are planned.

**Contact Information**

Each fourth grade teacher has a web page. We will post important information about our classes on this site, including regular class and 4th grade newsletters. This is a wonderful way to stay connected to what is happening in your child’s classroom.

**Ingrid Richards**

**Email:** ingrid.richards@dsisdtx.us

**Richards Website:** [http://mrsirichardsclass.weebly.com](http://mrsirichardsclass.weebly.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Phone Number:** 512-858-3780

District Webpage: http://www.dsisdtx.us/

**Daily Schedule**

**7:45 - 7:50** Morning Announcements / Pledges

**7:50 – 8:45** Science

**8:45 - 10:15** Math

**10:15 - 11:25** Reading / Language Arts

**11:25 - 12:00** Lunch

**12:00 - 12:20** Recess

**12:20 - 1:10** Specials / Conference

**1:10 - 2:00** Accelerated Instruction

**2:00 – 3:00** Reading / Lang Arts / Texas History

**3:00** Dismissal

# Grading

**District Grading Policy:** The 9-week grades for each subject shall be calculated based on a combination of summative and formative assessments. Re-assessment of summative assignments will be offered and will be entered as a separate grade. The teacher may require the student to complete additional practices, attend tutoring sessions, or complete another activity.

Formative vs. Summative (see page 2)

Formative - no retakes but skills are retaught by teacher or parent

Summative – no corrections but retake and keep both grades

# Late Work

**DSES Policy:** Teachers will make every attempt to ensure that all classroom assignments are completed. Teachers will communicate with parents in regards to missing and late assignments. Students who consistently do not turn in assigned work may be required to attend Study Hall during recess. Consistently late assignments may result in a discipline referral.

# Please read this letter with your child, sign, and return the portion below by Friday, September 2nd. Please keep the rest of this newsletter for your reference.

I have read and reviewed the three-page 4th Grade Newsletter with my child.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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 Parent Signature Date

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