

# Welcome To Fourth Grade!

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you and your child to fourth grade! We are so excited about this year and look forward to working with you and your child. We have a fun year ahead of us! Please take the time to read this fourth grade handbook. It will cover everything you will need to know about homework policies, fourth grade expectations and any other questions you may have.

## Parent Conferences

**Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on or before October 12th and 13th..** More information will be sent home about conferences at a later time. The fourth grade teacher's conference/planning times will be from 10:25-11:15 daily. Feel free to contact your child's teacher during this time if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Hawkins	<a href="mailto:jhawkins@dentonisd.org">jhawkins@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Benoit	<a href="mailto:dbenoit@dentonisd.org">dbenoit@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Sellars	<a href="mailto:wleidecker@dentonisd.org">wleidecker@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Williams	<a href="mailto:nwilliams@dentonisd.org">nwilliams@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Holt	<a href="mailto:kholt@dentonisd.org">kholt@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Cervantes	<a href="mailto:tcervantes@dentonisd.org">tcervantes@dentonisd.org</a>
Mrs. Bavoso	<a href="mailto:abavoso_sub@dentonisd.org">abavoso_sub@dentonisd.org</a>



(long-term substitute for Mrs. Cervantes)

## Attendance

Just a reminder that school begins at 7:40am. It is very important for children to get to school on time so they do not feel rushed or left behind. **Students will be counted tardy after 7:40AM.** Children may enter the classroom at the 7:30 bell.

Students will not be allowed to congregate in the front of the building. Students arriving early **must** wait in the cafeteria/gym.

As you know, eating breakfast is essential to help children to learn and function well in the classroom. If you would like, your child may buy breakfast in the cafeteria when they arrive, but they must arrive early enough to be served by 7:40. If your child is absent, please send a signed note within 48 hours of your student's absence so that we can keep that information on file. You may also email [savannahnotes@dentonisd.org](mailto:savannahnotes@dentonisd.org). Please copy your child's teacher on the email so that she knows you have turned in a note. **If we do not receive a note within 48 hours of the absence, it is automatically unexcused.** Verbal explanations and emails are not accepted.

## Make-Up Work

If a student is absent, he/she will have two days to complete the work for each day not in school. You **must** send a written excuse as to why your child was absent within two days of returning to school.

## Dismissal

Students will be dismissed at 3:00. . If your student is a walker, you may meet them by the bike racks after school. Car riders will be dismissed from the back cafeteria doors after the walkers have cleared. You must be in a car with a car tag to pick up your car rider. We will not allow parents to park their car and bring their car tag to the door. This is for the protection and safety of ALL children. **If your child is ever going to be going home by a different method of transportation you must send a note that morning.** Please don't send an email because your child may have a substitute in the classroom that day and they don't have email

access. Children without a note or phone message will be sent home the way they are normally to be dismissed. This is district policy.

### Scooters

Students may bring scooters into the building *only* if they are folded. Any scooter that cannot be folded must be secured at the bike rack.

### Shoes/Clothing

Please make sure your child wears appropriate clothing for school. Check the Savannah handbook for more specifics noting that if your child is improperly dressed he/she will call home for a change of clothing. Tennis shoes are required for PE and preferred for recess. Your child will not be allowed to participate in PE games/activities without the appropriate shoes. In addition, please be aware of the weather outside when sending your child dressed to school. Make sure all coats have your child's name somewhere inside.

### Lunch

4th Grade will have lunch from 12:35-1:05 each day.

If you would like to eat lunch with your child, please wait outside the cafeteria and enter at our lunch time. Students eating with parents can eat on the stage. Please remember that only your own child may join you. All other students must remain at their assigned lunch tables. Be sure to sign in at the front office anytime you visit the school. Lunch may be purchased in advance and placed in an account to make it easier for your child or children. Students may also bring lunch money daily if needed.

### Snacks/Water Bottle

Each day, sometime in the morning, we will be having a short snack time. **We ask that you please send a *healthy* snack with your child each day. Candy, pastries, and other sugary foods are not permitted and the child will be asked to save it for lunch.** Please remember how important it is that your student has food in their tummy in order to be more attentive in the classroom. Students are allowed to bring a water bottle to the classroom to keep on their desk (water is the only drink permitted in class).

### Special Areas

Our class will go to special areas from 10:25-11:15am We will have P.E., Art and Music during these times. Your child must wear tennis shoes on our P.E. days. Clubs are student selected special areas they attend each Friday and will be selected at the beginning of each semester (except Choir, it's a full year commitment). Clubs will include running club, art club, choir, and STEM.

### Birthdays

Whenever your child has a birthday at school you may send treats with your child to school that day. Parents may provide birthday cupcakes, cookies, donuts or other individual snacks for classmates as a birthday treat. ***Please clear it with the classroom teacher first. Once approved, teachers will record the date and time in the Savannah Birthday book located at the receptionist desk. Please drop off treats by your child's lunchtime. If you arrive with treats that have not gained prior approval from your child's teacher and not recorded in the birthday book, the snacks will not be delivered to your child's classroom.***

### Parties

Throughout the school year we will have three class parties. These parties will be the Holiday Party, Valentine's Day Party and the End of the Year Party. Notifications will be sent about these as they get closer and the room parents will contact you about details.

### **Medication**

We are not allowed to give medication at school unless you have completed the medication form. The medication must be taken to the nurse and must be in a clearly marked prescription bottle for the nurse to administer. Please check with the school nurse if you have any questions.

### **Tuesday Folders**

These folders will go home every Tuesday this year. In these folders you will find school fliers, your child's graded work, projects and general information. Please review the contents with your child, empty these folders, and return them to school on Wednesday. We will use these same folders throughout the year.

### **Discipline**

Savannah uses a classroom management approach referred to as C.H.A.M.P.S. Students have clear expectations set for them in each classroom for each activity. If those expectations are not followed, students will receive a warning. Continued behaviors will result in a red tag and a brief note on the calendar in their binder indicating a red tag was given. See red tag for more information. Red tags need to be signed and returned the next day.

Behavior such as fighting, defiance, destruction of property, profanity/vulgarity, bringing inappropriate items, theft, and being out-of-control issues an automatic office referral.

### **Gatoriffic**

- If you receive **more than 2 RED TAGS** per 6 weeks, you will not be Gatoriffic.
- 3 warning tags are equal to 1 red tag.

### **Take Home Folders - Conduct Calendar and Homework Log**

Folders will go home each day and need to be returned the following day. Inside your child's folder, you will find their conduct calendar. This calendar is our primary form of communication and is used to show what kind of day your child had at school. "No news is good news" is our motto. If your child has nothing on their conduct calendar, it was a good day! Please review the calendar nightly, sign and return to school each day.

Homework expectations are outlined on the calendar each six weeks. This calendar also serves as our homework log. Students will record their completed homework on the log each evening.

Folders will be checked by the teacher daily.

### **Guided Reading and Classroom Library Books**

Throughout the year your child may bring home literacy library books for reading homework. Replacement cost is \$15 for lost or damaged books.

### **Spelling**

Here at Savannah Elementary we have developed vertically aligned word walls, kindergarten through fifth grade. Research shows, word walls support students ongoing study of how words work. These are interactive, not simply a display of words. Word walls encourage students to actively learn about words and their meaning and will be referenced throughout all subject areas. In accordance with our standards based report card, instead of traditional spelling tests we will hold students accountable for their spelling through various writing samples and spelling activities.

### **Field Trips**

Students will have at least two field trips per school year. They might be required to pay a fee in order to take care of all transportation and activity costs. More information will be sent home closer to the date.

### Newsletters

A newsletter will be emailed each week throughout the school year. It is designed to let you know what we are studying so that you can make a home and school connection. It will also let you know what activities, programs, parties and field trips are scheduled. Please be on the lookout for this newsletter so that you may be up to date with the most current grade-level information.

### Cell Phones

Students who have cell phones must keep them powered off in their backpacks until after school hours unless participating in a teacher approved BYOD activity. If students have them out at inappropriate times they will be taken up and turned into the office for parents to pick up.

### STAAR Dates

Writing- April 10th, 2018

Math- May 14th, 2018

Reading-May 15th, 2018

Please feel free to call or send a note to your child's teacher to let them know of anything that they might need to know to better teach your child. We want your child's fourth grade year to be a wonderful and memorable time of learning and growth. By working together, we can make this a great year for your child!

Sincerely,  
The Savannah Fourth Grade Teachers

**IMPORTANT!**  
*Please Read and Sign Below.*



Thank you for taking the time to read through the information packet. Please go over this packet with your child so they understand what is expected of them at school. Please refer to these policies throughout the school year if there are any questions you may have.

Please sign the form below and return it to school by Friday, August 18th. Thank you!

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I have read and gone over the fourth grade 2017-2018 classroom policies and information packet.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_