

August 17, 2023

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! My name is Katherine McClafferty, and I'm thrilled to be kicking off another great year of teaching fourth grade at Ferguson Township Elementary! This letter includes some general information related to fourth grade, as well as a bit about me.



My Brief Bio...

I am a native of State College and a product of SCASD! I attended Penn State and began my teaching experiences as an intern at Park Forest Elementary. From there, I spent eight years teaching in Fairfax County, Virginia, as a second grade teacher, fifth grade teacher, and Title I resource teacher. I also earned my master's degree in Education Leadership from George Mason University.

My husband Brian and I moved back to the area after having our first daughter, Olivia. Seven-year-old Olivia now has a four-year old sister, Elliott, and we absolutely love raising our family here in Happy Valley!

After moving back to the area, I spent four years teaching at Grays Woods. I am now looking forward to my third year as a Ferguson Freezer! Brian and I bought our house down the road in Baileyville several years ago, and I love teaching in the community where I live. This year, I can't wait to make strong connections with students and families, both in and out of the classroom!

Our Daily Schedule

- 7:55-8:10 Arrival
- 8:15-8:30 Morning Meeting
- 8:30-8:40 Vocabulary
- 8:40-9:15 Reading, Whole Group
- 9:15-10:05 Specials
- 10:05-10:25 Number Corner
- 10:25-11:20 Math
- 11:20-11:35 Reading, Small Group
- 11:37-12:07 Lunch
- 12:15-12:45 Recess
- 12:45-1:00 Foundational Skills
- 1:00-1:45 Writing and Grammar
- 1:45-2:15 Reading, Small Group
- 2:15-3:00 Social Studies/Science
- 3:00 Dismissal

Specials Schedule

Day 1: Art

Day 2: Library

Day 3: STEM

Day 4: P.E.

Day 5: Music

School Supplies

Each day, your child should bring their **charged Chromebook, headphones (to be kept in the classroom if possible), a water bottle, and a daily snack. Snacks should be free of tree nuts/peanuts due to student allergies.** Some other supplies to kick off the beginning of the year would be helpful, but **not required**:

- A box of tissues
 - Sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
 - Individually wrapped snacks for our 'in case of emergency' classroom supply
- Our **very** generous PTO has taken care of the rest!

Other Important Information

- **When Visiting the Building:** We have a new sign-in system in the office that requires the use of a state-issued ID. Please remember to bring your ID or you will be unable to enter the building.
- **Parent Survey:** You are your child's first (and most important) teacher! Sometime during the next few weeks, please take this brief [Parent Survey](#) so that I can get to know your child from your perspective.
- **Meals at School:** There will be **no breakfast available on the first day of school.** However, **breakfast is provided free-of-charge** for all students once again this year! Please see the email from Megan Schaper for more school meal information. You can find the [lunch menus here](#).
- **Attendance Questions/Excuses:** For now, please email Leslie Specht with any attendance-related information at las12@scasd.org. Our new attendance secretary will begin shortly, and I will share their contact information when I know more. **I do not check my email while I am teaching**, so any pertinent arrival/dismissal information should be sent directly to the office staff. Feel free to include me on the email.

Final Thoughts

Please feel free to email me with questions or concerns you have. If it is important to reach me or your child immediately during the school day, please call the main office at 814-231-4119. I do not check my email during instructional time.

I look forward to working with you as we ensure a safe, successful, and joyful school year for all of our students!

Take care,

Katherine McClafferty
kar23@scasd.org