

August 17, 2023

Hello Fourth Grade Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! My name is Emily Matunis. I am so excited to be joining the Fergusson community and 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 originally from Pennsylvania, just about an hour south of here, and grew up the youngest of 13 kids on a large farm. My Dad was the local doctor and I have fond memories of going on house calls with him. After high school, I followed in my siblings' footsteps and attended Penn State University, choosing to major in Elementary Education.

After graduation, I taught in Fredericksburg, Virginia for 7 years teaching both 3rd and 5th grade. In 2008, I had the opportunity to move to London, England for two years and taught 3rd and 5th grades there as well. During this time, I was able to travel all over Europe and the surrounding areas. I returned to the same elementary school in Virginia for another three years, teaching 3rd grade. During this time, I met my wife Kim.

In 2012, we moved to Massachusetts to be closer to Kim's family. Since then, I have been teaching 6th grade ancient civilizations and earth science in Sharon, MA. Also, just before the pandemic, Kim and I completed our foster training and enjoyed being foster parents, soccer and basketball coaches, and mentors to some amazing children.

We just moved over the summer and are currently working on house renovations, meeting neighbors, and having fun exploring the area. We are so excited to be a part of this wonderful community.

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
- 11:40-12:10 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: Library

Day 2: Music

Day 3: Art

Day 4: STEM

Day 5: PE

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 in 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,
Emily Matunis
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