

Welcome to 4th Grade!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values®.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our **Big 3**:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

2022-2023 Big Ideas

August-Honor: Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

September-Trust: Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

October-Grit: Refusing to give up when life gets hard

November-Courage: Being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid

December-Joy: Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

January-Knowledge: Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

February-Respect: Showing others they are important what you say and do

March-Forgiveness: Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

April-Humility: Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

May-Determination: Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of art projects, crumpled writing assignments, and worn-down crayons. After that, your child will be a fifth grader and you'll never know them as a fourth grader again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it.

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project ® about fourth graders:

Fourth Graders...

- ... are motivated by competition.
- ... benefit by being encouraged to be persistent despite their performance.
- ... still need 10-11 hours of sleep each night.
- ... benefit from a best friend and other healthy friendships.
- ... are able to collaborate on rules and consequences.
- ... still may struggle with abstract concepts.
- ... increasingly value peer approval.
- ... might desire more personal privacy.
- ... still hold to family beliefs and values, but may ask challenging questions.
- ... may be drawn to a humanitarian cause and enjoy service opportunities.