

4th Grade Information



Mrs. Mary Wever

4th Grade Teacher
Red Cedar Elementary
wever_mk@elps.us

Miss Rachelle Galang

4th Grade Student Teacher
Michigan State University
galang_r@elps.us

Room 113
(517) 333-5060
www.weverworld.weebly.com

Our Goals for Our Children

Fourth grade is an important year of transition. Children are becoming more independent and able to make decisions without constant teacher guidance. They still need a lot of reassurance and instruction, but they are able to manage their time more efficiently.

We hope to help children:

Continue to love learning!

Feel safe and happy in school.

Learn to take appropriate risks academically and socially.

Appreciate their diverse abilities and talents.

Remember to treat classmates, teachers, and the school with respect.

Grow to their full potential as learners and as children.

We will achieve these goals through:

Small group and whole group instruction

Individual tutoring

Stories

Music

Games

Learning Centers

Theatre

Creative movement

Technology



Policies, Procedures, and General Information

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Miss Rachelle Galang

4th Grade Student Teacher
Michigan State University
galang_r@elps.us

Room 113
(517) 333-5060
www.weverworld.weebly.com

Our Goals for Our Children

Fourth grade is an important year of transition. Children are becoming more independent and able to make decisions without constant teacher guidance. They still need a lot of reassurance and instruction, but they are able to manage their time more efficiently.

We hope to help children:

Continue to love learning!

Feel safe and happy in school.

Learn to take appropriate risks academically and socially.

Appreciate their diverse abilities and talents.

Remember to treat classmates, teachers, and the school with respect.

Grow to their full potential as learners and as children.

We will achieve these goals through:

Small group and whole group instruction

Individual tutoring

Stories

Music

Games

Learning Centers

Theatre

Creative movement

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Miss Rachelle Galang

4th Grade Student Teacher
Michigan State University
galang_r@elps.us

Room 113
(517) 333-5060
www.weverworld.weebly.com

Our Goals for Our Children

Fourth grade is an important year of transition. Children are becoming more independent and able to make decisions without constant teacher guidance. They still need a lot of reassurance and instruction, but they are able to manage their time more efficiently.

We hope to help children:

Continue to love learning!

Feel safe and happy in school.

Learn to take appropriate risks academically and socially.

Appreciate their diverse abilities and talents.

Remember to treat classmates, teachers, and the school with respect.

Grow to their full potential as learners and as children.

We will achieve these goals through:

Small group and whole group instruction

Individual tutoring

Stories

Music

Games

Learning Centers

Theatre

Creative movement

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Miss Rachelle Galang

4th Grade Student Teacher
Michigan State University
galang_r@elps.us

Room 113
(517) 333-5060
www.weverworld.weebly.com

Our Goals for Our Children

Fourth grade is an important year of transition. Children are becoming more independent and able to make decisions without constant teacher guidance. They still need a lot of reassurance and instruction, but they are able to manage their time more efficiently.

We hope to help children:

Continue to love learning!

Feel safe and happy in school.

Learn to take appropriate risks academically and socially.

Appreciate their diverse abilities and talents.

Remember to treat classmates, teachers, and the school with respect.

Grow to their full potential as learners and as children.

We will achieve these goals through:

Small group and whole group instruction

Individual tutoring

Stories

Music

Games

Learning Centers

Theatre

Creative movement

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ELPS is requires all volunteers to fill out a background check form. This is to keep the children in our school safe. Please fill out this form before volunteering to work in our classroom.

Homework

The most important thing your child can do at home is **READ!** Please help your child to get in a routine of reading for at least **20 minutes each night**. In addition, your child will bring home his/her binder each night with math homework. This homework will be given each night to compliment the math lesson done during the school day. It is **ALWAYS** due the next day. If there is other homework, you will find it in that same binder and written in the planner. Our job as 4th grade teachers is to prepare your children for 5th/6th grades. Therefore, we will be diligent in checking homework and planners with the goal of having your child become independent and organized. **Your child will be asking you to check over and sign his/her homework and planner every night.**

Students who do not have their math facts committed to memory need to practice their facts every night so they become automatic. If you think your child needs more work at home, please visit the **Useful Websites** page of our classroom website, practice spelling words by making flash cards, write in a home journal, practice math facts, or increase how much your child READS.

Math Facts

It is expected that each child knows his/her math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). Facts should be committed to memory and automatic. As our math curriculum gets more intense, the ability to recall facts automatically is imperative. Your child will bring home Fact Triangles. Please make sure to study facts every night to become automatic.

Academics

Reading

Our district implemented a new reading program this year called **Reading Street**. There are whole group and small group lessons on vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, fluency, and accuracy. Students will be put into flexible instructional groups based on individual needs. Children work in these groups during our **Reader's Workshop** period when the rest of the class chooses to do an activity from **The Daily 5** (Read to Self, Partner Read, Write, Word Work, or Listen to Reading). Research suggests that the amount of independent reading time children do in school is related to gains in reading achievement. Independent reading is also a major source of vocabulary growth and reading fluency.

A balanced reading program with quality instruction involves many elements. In the Reader's Workshop, students have the opportunity to:

- Listen and respond to good literature.
- Participate in individual and small group instruction and read individually and/or with other children.
- Select material at the appropriate level.
- Have lessons on phonics and word attack skills.
- Focus on comprehension.
- Integrate reading and writing activities.

I believe that the ultimate goal of reading is personal understanding and enjoyment. Within Reader's Workshop, I will watch students display these characteristics everyday. They will be truly motivated to read (and read well).

You, as parents, are essential teachers in your child's reading development. You will support your child by listening to him/her read at home, continuing to read to and with your child, and making sure that the take-a-book-home program gets done successfully (more on that program later).

Writing

We write daily. Red Cedar has made a commitment to school-wide participation in the Writing Workshop format originated by the nationally renowned teacher, **Lucy Calkins**. Since the ability to write is so closely linked to success in all academic areas, we devote appropriate time to develop this important skill.

Spelling

We will be working with the **Reading Street** spelling program. This program focuses on correctly spelling high frequency words within context. In addition, each child has his/her own **Spelling Dictionary** that is used to promote proper spelling of the words that your child uses within his/her individual writing.

Mathematics

We will be working with the **Everyday Mathematics** program. Please be sure to read the Family Letters for information and answers to your child's homework (Family Letters are kept in the left side of your child's Daily Folder). This program was developed by the University of Chicago Mathematics Project to "enable children in the elementary grades to learn more mathematical content and become life-long mathematical thinkers."

Science

We have five major units. These include the **Changing Earth, View of Earth, Energy Transfer, Matter, and Ecology**.

Social Studies

We work on various units relating to **Civics, Government, Economics, and Geography**. We will also be working with the **Michigan Model Health Curriculum**.

MEAP

Fourth graders take the reading, math, and writing MEAP assessments in October. More information about dates will be coming home soon. Please make sure that your child is at school every day that the MEAP is scheduled. Try not to schedule doctor appointments during that time. This can be a very stressful time for kids, so it is helpful for your child to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast.

Book Bingo

Please put **Friday, March 1, 2013** on your calendar now. As part of our Economics unit, your child will help plan and run Book Bingo (a huge book recycling night where we sell pizza and play Bingo to win books). The proceeds earned from Book Bingo go directly to help pay for our field trip to Hoffmaster State Park (the sand dunes) and Meijer Gardens. This is usually a very expensive field trip, so the money earned at Book Bingo helps offset the cost. In addition, it is an extremely fun night that teaches the concepts of owning and running a business.