

August 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Applegarth and the fourth grade! I hope you had a safe and productive summer. My name is Mr. Thomas Gardner and I will have the honor of teaching your child this academic year. The Monroe Township School District has established its reputation by following a simple philosophy; the growth of each student is the number one priority. As your child's teacher, I will do everything in my power to provide a safe, productive, and supportive learning environment where your child can excel - academically, emotionally, and socially.

Now, more than ever, I believe my goal is not only to transform children into excellent students, but to transform children into excellent people. I am committed to providing an outstanding learning environment for your child. I believe that building a strong educational foundation along with setting challenging yet attainable goals can push young minds to do better. I understand that no child is the same and therefore, each child learns differently. I differentiate instruction by incorporating technology, a variety of manipulatives, fun activities, visual and auditory thinking strategies, and cooperative learning techniques.

Remember, I am always here to help. From students, to teachers, to parents, communication and transparency will be key to a successful school year. I believe the collaboration of teachers; parents and the community are essential and necessary in order to achieve true learning and academic growth. With this in mind, my door is always open to you. If you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I can be reached by email

(Thomas.gardner@monroe.k12.nj.us), by calling Applegarth Elementary directly at (609)-655-0604, or by message on the Google Classroom program which your child may already join using the class code: **7taujei5** or the link below

"<https://classroom.google.com/c/ODc0NDYzNDY4NjA1?cjc=7taujei5>" and classroom dojo which will be set up in the first weeks of September.

In the coming days, I will begin to send out further details pertaining to the first day of school on September 3rd. I am looking forward to a fun and productive year of learning. I am very excited to introduce myself to your child!

Sincerely,
Mr. Thomas Gardner
Teacher of Grade 4
Applegarth Elementary School