

Teacher Communication Plan 2023-2024
Grade 4

Mr. Cummings

Welcome to Grade 4! I am so excited to have the opportunity to get to know and work with your child throughout this school year. Below you will find the classroom expectations your child will be expected to follow as well as an overview of the curriculum we will be following this year.

Expectations in Grade 4

Each morning your child will be responsible for bringing in their agenda and any notes they have. They may have a morning snack or breakfast from the breakfast program. At 8:15 classes begin.

It is very important that your child comes to school every day, on time unless they are feeling ill. If your child is ill, please call the school and let us know: (902) 649-4400. If your child is sick at school, the school will call you to come and pick up your child.

If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent from school, please send a note or write it in your child's agenda to inform me.

If your child is **late** arriving at school, then they must check in to the office when they arrive. Please call the office if your child will be arriving late to school.

Classroom Rules

In our classroom, we have co-created a list of rules as a class. They are:

- Listen respectfully to others.
- No throwing things.
- Keep hands to ourselves.
- Be kind to each other.
- No running/ No yelling.
- Stay at workplace.
- Raise hand before speaking.
- Stay on task.

Physically harming another student (hitting, slapping, pinching, kicking, punching, etc.) is NOT acceptable at any time and will result in an office referral.

Your child will be expected to follow these expectations. Please reinforce these expectations with your child at home and ask them about the rules in their classroom.

Communication

Communication between home and school is a very important factor in supporting your child's education. Please check your child's agenda daily. Please also write me any notes that you want me to know and place any notes in your child's pouch for me, as they will be checked daily. It will be your child's responsibility to bring their agenda into the class each morning.

I will email or make phone calls to you if I have any concerns to discuss with you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you also have concerns or questions. I am very good at email and will check it every day. You can email me at renny.cummings@tcrc.ca. Feel free to send me your email in your child's agenda and I will note it. You can also contact me at the school. The office number is (902) 649-4400. Parent teacher conferences take place twice during the school year (Term 1 and 2). More information about parent teacher conferences will be released from the school at a future date.

Curriculum

In Grade 4, all subjects are *integrated* through **literacy** and **numeracy** (English Language Arts and Mathematics programs).

English Language Arts - Explicit teaching of reading and writing happen in a workshop framework. Workshops are made up of: Time to Teach, Time to Practice, and Time to Reflect & Share; the largest part of the workshop is devoted to time to practice, and the few minutes devoted to reflection at the end of a period of learning are essential to solidify new learnings. Writing will take place daily in many forms, including a *writer's notebook*. Student's will be given ELA topics which correspond with our ELA outcomes. Students will also have many opportunities to write about their own topics in the form they choose (story, poem, list, comic, etc.). We will also do a daily word study (spelling) program with their own commonly misspelled words.

We will also be reading every day, sometimes independently, sometimes with book buddies, and sometimes at the guided reading table in small groups with the

teacher. You can support your child's learning simply by reading with them EVERYDAY. This is extremely beneficial in developing your child's literacy skills.

Mathematics – The Grade 4 Mathematics curriculum is made up of five main areas- Numbers, Patterns and Relations, Geometry, Measurement, Statistics and Probability.

Social Studies – In Grade 4 Social Studies learners will investigate the concept of exploration and the stories of various explorers, inclusive of the Acadians, African Nova Scotians, Gaels, Mi'kmaq, and additional cultures. They will evaluate the impacts of exploration. Learners will also investigate the relationships between humans and the physical environment and investigate the physical and political landscape of Canada.

Science – In Grade 4 Science learners will investigate a variety of local natural habitats and analyse interconnectedness of local habitats, inclusive of a Mi'kmaw perspective. Learners will investigate properties of light and how light is used. Learners will investigate sound in the environment and test how properties of sound change. Learners will analyse rocks, minerals, and fossils in the local environment. Learners will investigate how the Earth's surface changes over time.

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) and Health Education – Every day students will have a PATHS activity to supplement their health outcomes. PATHS lessons include topics such as team building, getting along, self-esteem, the 'Golden Rule' and lessons to support social/emotional learning. We will have a PATHS KID everyday who is celebrated in class and a compliment list will be sent home. I encourage you to also give your child a compliment on the PATHS sheet :)

Assessment- How will your child be assessed for report cards? Assessment during the year is ongoing through observations, conversations and products.

In Mathematics, there will be a balance of "hands-on" activities using a variety of manipulatives as well as pencil and paper tasks. Assessment regularly takes place through daily observation logs, checklists, conversations, and small group and/or one on one conferences.

In Language Arts your child's reading and writing progress will be assessed through reading benchmarks, guided reading and writing, writing conferences, writing samples and reflections. I will assess your child's writing by requiring them to write independently, using a grade level marking rubric.

I look forward to working with your child this year! Again, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thank you for your support in your child's education.

Sincerely,

Mr. Renny Cummings