

August 1, 2019

Dear Parents,

Hello, my name is Kate Merten, and I will be your child's fourth grade teacher. I am very excited to start a new year, and to get to know you and your child. As many of you know, my husband, Matt, and I have two children, Sam and Grace. Sam recently graduated from college, and is working as a teacher's assistant at Dover-Sherborn High School. He is looking for a job as a high school history teacher. My daughter, Grace will be starting her senior year, majoring in elementary and special education. I have learned so much through having my children go through public school, and I truly believe this has allowed me to see my role as a teacher from all points of view.

When my children were starting school, I often wondered about the people who were in the classroom with them. For this reason, I thought some of you would be interested in my history here. This fall I will begin my twenty-eighth year teaching at Kennedy. I have held many positions here, including Special Education Teacher, Fifth Grade Teacher, and Second Grade Teacher. This is my nineteenth year teaching fourth grade. I truly enjoyed every position I have had. I am sure this year will be another great year.

This year, we will be holding our Curriculum night on Thursday September 12th. I would like to encourage you to attend. During this time I will information about fourth grade curriculum and expectations, as well as the report card and grading. I will also answer any questions you have regarding classroom policies and procedures. I hope to see you there!

It seems that the school supplies are available and on sale earlier and earlier every year. Each time I walk into Target, Staples or Walmart, I see so many back to school sales! When you received your child's report card, there was a list of [suggested school supplies](#) for fourth grade. I have also posted a link for this [here](#). If you choose not to purchase individual supplies for your child, supplies such as scissors, glue sticks, markers, highlighters, pens and Sharpies will be available for the students to share throughout the year. If your child prefers to have his/her own supplies in his/her desk, please clearly mark those supplies belonging to your child, particularly scissors, so that they can be easily identified.

Sometime in early fall, we will be working on a science project. We will be making terrariums, which we will use to observe plant adaptations and the water cycle. In order to do this, the students will need a large **plastic** jar. It should be at least twelve inches tall, clear, and have a wide mouth. Having a lid is preferable, however if it doesn't that is fine as well (large cheese ball or pretzel jars work great).

If there is anything that you feel I should know about your child in order to more fully understand him/her, please drop me a note at school, or give me a call (508)541-5261 ext. 2024. You can also reach me via email at

mertenk@franklinps.net . I have an "open door" policy, so please don't hesitate to contact me now, or throughout the year with any questions or concerns. I believe that working with you is crucial to a successful year for your child. All information will be kept strictly confidential. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Katie Merten