



Mrs. McCue's Fourth Grade Fireflies

2023-24



It is my pleasure to welcome you & your child to fourth grade! I feel extremely blessed to be able to work with the both of you and to be a part of this amazing community. My hope is that together we can make this school year both successful and exciting for your child!

I'm passionate about creating a safe and warm classroom environment. I will work with students as a whole group, in small groups, & individually depending on the lesson/needs of students. I will incorporate movement/brain breaks & educational manipulatives. "Mistakes Allow Thinking to Happen" is one of my key classroom mottos. (This is my MATH acronym that I've been using for the last 8 years.) My goal is for students to feel safe in their environment, knowing that we will all make mistakes and that is part of the learning process. I will ALWAYS encourage kindness and grace in our classroom.

Please feel free to reach out to me when you have questions & concerns. I'm a fan of honest and open communication, whether I'm sharing information or receiving it. My goal is to respond as promptly as possible, Monday-Friday 9a.m.-4p.m. For emails, please allow a possible response time of twenty-four hours. Thanks so much!

Robin McCue



Mrs. McCue's Fourth Grade Fireflies

2023-24



LIGHT Website: <https://www.lightacademywichita.com/>

Mrs. McCue's Email: lightacademy.rmccue@gmail.com

GroupMe App: Whole school messages are communicated, on the **2022 LIGHT Families** page. For information specific to 4th grade, find **4th Grade Fireflies 2023-24**. In both cases, you'll have the ability to message everyone as a whole group. You'll also be able to send direct messages to group members. If you need to reach only me, please send me a direct message.

Facebook Page: Search for **4th Grade Fireflies 2023-24...** class communication & photos from Mrs. McCue! For safety, members will include only LIGHT admins & 2023-24 4th grade parents. Thanks for understanding.

Weekly Newsletters:

These will be posted **each Tuesday on the Light website**. In each newsletter, I'll share Language Arts and Math concepts, assignments to complete at home, a monthly Bible verse, links, tips & reminders. We review & refer to the Bible verse as a class. Memorizing it isn't required. Reading the entire newsletter will best prepare you & your child for the school week.

Assignments:

Newsletters will list assignments, using Language Arts lesson numbers & Math page numbers. Lessons/Exercises are assigned on Tuesdays, & they are **due the following Tuesday**, with the exception of special projects. Though not required, I'd recommend dating/making notes on workbook assignments, to keep for your records. Example: Your child can creatively complete a workbook page by using a whiteboard/chalk/sharing answers aloud vs. filling in answers with a pencil. If so, just make a note. Home assignments, unless specified, are completed & graded at home.

Yellow Folders:

These are a communication tool. Please have your child bring it to school each day. I will send home papers & any work that needs to be finished at home/returned in your child's yellow folder. You may use the folder to send any notes & return student work.



Mrs. McCue's Fourth Grade Fireflies

2023-24



Read Theory: <https://readtheory.org/>

Please read the handout. Fourth grade students will complete at least two quizzes per month at home. They are welcome to finish more than two quizzes, if desired.

Water Bottle/Snacks/Lunch:

Please send a water bottle with your child each day. It should only contain water. Flavor packets & other beverages should remain at home. Students may enjoy their water bottles during class breaks, individual work times, group work times, & lunch.

Our class will have a snack time. Your child is responsible for bringing his/her snack. Sometimes, students will continue to work on an assignment while eating. Snacks should be small (one item) & easily eaten/cleaned up.

If your child stays for an elective, they will need to bring a lunch on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. We won't have access to a refrigerator or a microwave. Please make sure lunches contain any necessary utensils, as well as items your child can easily open/eat/clean up. Once again, beverages other than water should remain at home.

Because of any possible allergies, students will only be permitted to eat their own snacks & lunch items.

Restroom Breaks:

For safety reasons, we will follow LIGHT's restroom policy regarding class & individual breaks. We will take at least two restroom breaks as a whole class.

Recess:

We will have a scheduled, ten to fifteen minute recess. Please check the weather, & have your child dress accordingly. Girls may want to wear shorts or leggings under any dresses.

Birthdays:

I love birthdays! Please reach out to me to schedule your child's celebration. Summer birthdays are welcome too. Your child may bring a prepackaged treat to share. At the beginning of your child's scheduled day, you will send the treat. The class will celebrate during our regular snack time. I will take pictures to share on our class Facebook page.



Mrs. McCue's Fourth Grade Fireflies

2023-24



Instructional Model

Newsletters are sent via Light website, each Tuesday, by 1:30p.m.

The following instructional model guides & clarifies the learning process, throughout each week: **Tuesday - Tuesday**.

TEACHER Tuesdays/Thursdays: Mrs. McCue will introduce new skills/concepts, at school. Students will participate in guided practice, using a variety of activities. They will take a spelling test & a LA/Vocabulary quiz, every Thursday. Those are graded & sent home the following Tuesday.

PARENT Wednesdays/Fridays/Mondays: You will lead independent practice, at home.

- Review, reteach, or expand upon skills/concepts, according to your child's needs.
- The student will practice spelling words.
- The student will practice multiplication/division math facts.
- The student will complete assigned workbook LA lessons/math exercises, other unfinished assignments (check yellow folder), & any activities you've planned.
- The student will read silently and/or with a parent. You choose the reading material, according to your child's needs.
- Two times or more per month, students will practice skills, using the online tool: Read Theory.



Mrs. McCue's Fourth Grade Fireflies

2023-24



Helpful Hints for Home

- Kids can use a fingers, popsicle stick, or cotton swab to write math fact answers in shaving cream, pudding, or rice spread out on a cookie sheet. They can give answers, while jumping into the pool, hopping, etc! They can add or multiply dice or playing cards. "Paint" answers with water on your fence or driveway. Practice out loud, on the way to lessons/practices.
- Haul out the sidewalk chalk! Practice math facts, practice adding & subtracting three-digit (or more) numbers, practice spelling patterns, practice writing complete sentences, etc.
- Practice Parts of Speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, articles, interjections, conjunctions. Create a scavenger hunt or bingo, talk about them after reading a chapter, while on a walk, while at the park, while visiting the zoo, etc.
- Before reading a chapter or watching a TV show, ask your child to make predictions about what will be read/watched. After reading/watching, discuss story elements: Title, Author, Characters, Settings, Problems, Solutions. See if they can summarize verbally or in written form.
- Search for online, free typing programs & practice typing skills
- Visit the library.
- Listen to audio books, during car trips.
- Find creative locations to read: backyard, tent (outside or ones made inside), treehouse, park, on the way to lessons/practice, etc.
- Highlighters: They can highlight words they aren't sure how to spell, while free writing. They can highlight parts of speech, which operation they're using in math problems, important parts in math story problems, punctuation, etc.
- Write letters or postcards to friends & family!
- I haven't used it, but you could try it out, to see if you like it. I copied/pasted the 2nd page, but it has a list of grade levels on the left side.
<https://www.education.com/worksheets/fourth-grade/>
- Find tutoring, if desired. You can also look online for other, local options. If you need IEP type services (speech, etc.), check with your local school district.