

September 2018

Dear 4th Grade Families,

Welcome to a new, exciting school year at P.S. 39! I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year. I'd like to share some information about myself and prepare you for fourth grade.

This will be my ninth year in teaching. In the past, I have had the opportunity to teach grades 2, 4, and 5, and am very happy to be returning to fourth grade this year.

Fourth grade is a year of great development. Students will begin the year just as they ended third grade and will finish the year ready to be the senior class at P.S. 39. You may be surprised at how independent and confident your child will become during this rigorous but fun year in fourth grade.

In social studies, students will travel through the timeline of American History to learn about events from hundreds of years ago when Native Americans lived throughout New York State, colonists revolted against the British crown, and Americans created and signed the U.S. Constitution. The work we do with our social studies curriculum will be the focus of many of our field trips and projects throughout the year.

Your child will be spending a significant amount of time reading and writing this year. Reading and writing instruction will be at the core of your child's growth in fourth grade. One big focus at this school is writing workshop. As a result of the learning taking place during writing workshop, your child will publish narrative, informational, and opinion writing pieces.

This year, P.S. 39 will be continuing to use a math curriculum called Engage New York. This math program focuses on thinking critically and solving real-world problems. Math is one of my favorite subjects and I hope your child will love mathematical thinking and problem solving as much as I do.

Our class will have lunch during sixth period (1:00-1:50) on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we will have lunch during fourth period (11:20-12:10) where we will share the period with several classes from different grades in order to help us connect with students from other parts of our school community. We will have art on Mondays, physical education on Tuesdays, science on Wednesdays and Fridays, and music on Thursdays. At arrival, our class will line up in the Upper Playground and students will dismiss at the end of the day in the same place.

Every Tuesday afternoon between 2:40-3:25 has been designated by the DOE as Parent Engagement Time. These 40 minutes have been set aside for face-to-face meetings, telephone conversations, and written correspondence (including email) with parents. Please take advantage of this time to communicate with me as needed across the school year. Although this specific time has been provided, it is not the only time that I'm available to meet or speak with parents. We'll be communicating regularly. School/family communication is important at P.S. 39!

The first few weeks of school is a time for establishing new classroom routines. Your child will bring home a folder each day with any notices and homework sheets. Students will receive their homework assignments for the week on Mondays. Due to special circumstances, changes may be made during the week if necessary. I do not assign a lot of homework for

students but I do expect students to complete what is assigned to the best of their ability. Reading at home is an important nightly homework assignment that is vital for your child to continue to improve as a reader.

For your child's safety, there is some important information that I am requesting you share with me on the parent information form below. First, please let me know how your child will be dismissed (if your child will walk home alone, the school needs written consent for this). If there are ever any changes in a student's dismissal (such as going home with someone different than usual or walking home alone), you must let the school know in writing (via a letter, note, or email) for the safety and protection of your child. Second, please let me know if your child has any health needs that I should be aware of.

I look forward to meeting you at our first Family Friday!

Matthew Strong
4th Grade Teacher
4-108
P.S. 39

Student's Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Names of parents/guardians and contact numbers:

E-Mail Address(es): _____

Please check one of the following:

_____ My child will be picked up after school by _____
(name of person picking up the student)

_____ My child has permission to walk home alone

*****Any other important information (medical conditions, allergies, etc.)**

***Parent/Guardian Signature** _____ **Date:** _____