

Changes in Fourth Grade

2018

As students progress from grade to grade, they face changes in their schedule and routine. There will be a new teacher, new concepts to learn, and a new schedule.

Until now the students have been in the primary grades and next year they will be part of the intermediate grades. This means new lunch times and recess times. They will be the youngest students during recess instead of being the oldest. Overall the students will now have increased responsibilities and increased expectations as they become role models for the younger students at Lafayette.



My goal is to make this transition as smooth as possible for both the parents and the students into the intermediate grade. The first step in this process is having clear communication. I have listed some of the most common changes between third and fourth below.

- Morning snack will be eaten during first recess. There will be no snack time during class and also no snack milk. Children find it helpful to have portable snacks that can be in a Ziploc bag.
- There are still two recesses, at 10:00 and 12:00. Lunch is at 11:30. Later in the fall students will have the freedom to choose their table provided they make good choices and demonstrate manners while eating lunch.
- Each student will receive a homework folder.
- Each morning students will be asked to sign in, bring in their homework, and **know how they are getting home after school.**
- Students will be expected to read for a half hour each school night and on the weekends as well as complete a reading log. The students will be expected to read a minimum of two books a month. To make the transition back to school smoother, **children are encouraged to start reading each night for a half hour starting now.**
- Students will be tested on their math facts for multiplication/division weekly. Students should practice their math facts each night and throughout their summer.
- Students will have the option of joining band and chorus this year. Parents should begin to discuss the obligations of belonging to each group this summer with their child. Take them to see a music show so they can get a feel for the joy of being part of a music/band group. Also understand that your child will miss some academic time to attend band lessons each week. There will also be additional homework to practice your instrument.
- Students might have special sporting events with the fifth and sixth grade.

Lastly, I understand that each child handles changes differently and not all students are ready to handle the responsibilities asked of a fourth grader. Every effort will be made to accommodate your child so they feel successful with the changes and be able handle the increased expectations and responsibilities. I hope the list above helps smooth the transition from primary grades to intermediate grades. Overall, as the student enters fourth grade they become role models for younger children and are expected to be independent, responsible, respectful, and engaged life-long learners in the school community. Feel free to go over this list with your child. It will help make the transition smoother.

Thank you for your time and energy, and, as always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me.