

The FAQ's of Our Class!

In this packet, you will find useful information that will help you and your child transition into a new school year. Please review the information as it may answer some questions you have prior to the start of the school year. I am looking forward to working with you and your child to achieve a fulfilling and successful school year. ~Mrs. Atkins

Teacher Website

You will find electronic copies of the weekly newsletters, supply lists, and other noteworthy news regarding our class on our website. Please bookmark the following site for your reference.

www.mrsatkins4thgradesafari.weebly.com

Mrs. Atkins' Management System

In order for your child to have a successful and enjoyable year he/she needs to know and understand our classroom expectations.

CHOMPing

Sycamore Creek Elementary School has an outlined Positive Behavior Support discipline policy called CHOMP. You will find an explanation of CHOMP inside your Welcome Folder. We expect students to fully adhere to that policy at all times, as well as displaying good character.

The purpose of this system is to ensure the safety of each child and to achieve maximum teaching/learning time in class. It helps rewards positive behavior as well as manages the classroom environment. This enhances the positive aspect of the great behaviors we are already seeing among the students.

TICKETS & REWARDS

In addition to CHOMP I will be using the Class Dojo app. Students will earn points by chomping and meeting or exceeding classroom expectations. Student's points will be kept private and shared with the individual student upon request. You will receive an invitation to Class Dojo during the first week of school. Once registered you will be able to monitor your child's daily behavior. We will also be able to use the message feature as another communication tool. Students will use their points to earn rewards in the classroom. A list of the reward system will be sent home during the first week of school. The management system is designed to teach students about responsibility and making wise choices in a tangible way. It is also a good motivator to have the students work together as a team while still rewarding the individual. I like to communicate with parents about any behavior situations and work together to solve any issues. Thank you in advance for your support.

CONSEQUENCES

When an issue arises I like to privately discuss the matter with the student. Many times students will be part of creating the consequence for their actions. They must also decide how they are going to right the situation. I am hopeful that discussions at school and home will be enough to correct any misbehaviors.

Steps that we take are:

- 1) Student and teacher have a discussion – verbal warning and parent notification, logical consequence (student and teacher created) as needed. Ex: Apology letter, helping a student fix something that was broken, etc.
***Parents will be contacted so that you can help support your child as well.**
- 2) Continued issue: Phone call home between teacher, parent, and student
- 3) Meeting with appropriate school staff, student, and parent

CLASSROOM AGREEMENTS

The students and I will work together on the first day of school to create our classroom agreements. I believe that it is very important for students to play a part in deciding what the expectations in our classroom will be. A copy of the classroom agreement will be sent home during the first week of school.

This management system has worked very well for my students and I in the past. If for any reason during the year I change the management system to better suit our class needs I will let you know.

Change in Dismissal

At the beginning of the year we will establish how each child is supposed to go home; bus, carpool, walker, or after school programs. *If for any reason your child needs to go home a different way you can either 1) Send a written and signed note to school or 2) Call the front office.* The school needs to receive the information from the child's legal guardian. **These are the only 2 accepted forms of dismissal change.** Voicemails and e-mails may not be received in time and I am not allowed to take the word of students on this matter. Your child may not go home on a bus with a friend unless it is the bus they normally ride.

Class Homework Policy

Fourth grade students should be completing 40-50 minutes of homework each night (Monday-Thursday). Weekend homework is extremely rare. Your child will have a weekly reading log that requires them to read for 20 minutes each night and respond to the reading. You can also expect vocabulary homework and math homework. If your child is taking longer than 50 minutes for homework, please notify me so we can work on solutions together.

If your child is missing a homework assignment, you will receive notification in the Friday folder. Too many missed or late homework assignments will result in lower grades in work habits on interim reports and report cards. If a student doesn't do a homework assignment, he/she is expected to make it up.

I will initial your child's agenda each day before they leave school to ensure that all homework is written down. Parents are asked to initial the agenda once homework is completed to verify that all assignments

are finished and ready for the due date. The agenda can also serve as a communication tool, so please feel free to write to me in this way as well.

Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent or has been absent please send a note to school with your child stating the dates and reason for absence. Students are expected to make up all missed work. If you are going on vacation or know that your child will be missing multiple days of school please give me a week's notice to prepare the makeup material for them. If you are unsure what is excused or unexcused please ask the office or myself and we'll happily help.

How can you help your child do well in school?

I work extremely hard to ensure each student enjoys their time while at school in a safe and positive environment, but I cannot do this by myself. To help us have a successful year please have the following conversations with your child. ☺

- 1) Frequently ask your child how they're doing in school, academically and otherwise. Help them self reflect on the day and allow them to communicate any goals/needs/successes they're having. If they're struggling in a certain area brainstorm some ideas they can try the next week to improve. I'm happy to help as needed!
- 2) Ask what respectful behavior looks like at school to your child. I describe causing disruptions in class equivalent to giving other students "commercial breaks" in their learning. Laughing at other children, causing disruptions, or making hurtful/inappropriate comments are not tolerated.
- 3) Discuss with your child their role of responsibility in their education, they're the only ones that can do the learning while at school. Their teacher and parents can't do it for them so they need to be focused and working hard each day.
- 4) Remind students to ask questions! Student's will be encouraged to ask questions to help gain a better understanding of the standards we're learning in class. We will take time at the beginning of each objective to answer **all** questions from the day before. **QUESTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED!** ☺
- 5) Remind students that poor work ethic is going to affect their grades. You can show students their education is important to you by signing their agendas daily, looking over their weekly work, and asking them about school.

Additional Information ☺

- **Field Trips** – In the past, SCES students have attended performances by the North Carolina Symphony, toured downtown Raleigh, and studied animal adaptations at the North Carolina Zoo. More information regarding field trips will be coming soon.
- **Dress Code** – Please see that your child follows the school dress code. Time is taken out of the instructional day if the student needs to be sent to the office to change into something more appropriate. Please keep in mind that the classrooms can be quite chilly at times, so a sweater/sweatshirt is a good idea.
- **Homework Agenda** – The homework agenda is a very valuable tool for student, parent, and teacher. Please initial the agenda nightly to show that you have monitored your child's homework and to see if there are any important messages from the teacher. You may use this for correspondence at any time (see homework policy).

- **Work Quality** - In fourth grade students have higher expectations and must submit quality work. In order for any assignment to be accepted it must follow these guidelines:
 - Completed as directed
 - Name written at the top
 - Handwritten neatly
 - Complete thoughts and sentences

Students will be asked to redo assignments that do not fit these guidelines.

- **Supplies** – Please see that your child has his/her supplies stocked. Please replace pencils, paper, and crayons periodically. If you have trouble sending in supplies, please let me know so that we can help ensure your child has anything they may need.
- **Breakfast and Lunch** – Please see that your child eats a nutritious breakfast before school. Often, a midmorning headache or stomachache is due to skipping breakfast. The same applies to lunch and afternoon illnesses. Please do not send candy or soda in lunches and be sure to include a healthy snack for our break each day.
- **Allergies, medical conditions and medications** – Please notify the school immediately if there is a change in your child’s medical status. It is necessary to have the latest information in an emergency situation.
- **Scholastic Book Orders** –If you choose to purchase books from the Book Clubs, only online orders will be accepted. I will post our classroom code on the class website. I will also include it on the weekly newsletters.
- **Spelling & Vocabulary Tests** – Your child will take weekly vocabulary test. Please review any words that your child may miss on the test and continue to work on those words at home.
- **Study Island and MobyMax** – In the past, students have had access to both Study Island and MobyMax to help enhance instruction. I will send log-in information home within the first couple weeks of school.
- **Lunch Number** - Please have your child memorize his/her lunch number, even if he/she never buys lunch. This is their login to use a computer at school.
- **Birthdays** – Sending a birthday treat to school with your child is not required, however, if you choose to do so, the treats will be served in the cafeteria with lunch per school policy. Please consult with me ahead of time to ensure that the treat does not conflict with any classroom allergies.
- **Tennis Shoes – From Mr. Miller:** Tennis shoes are a requirement to participate in Physical Education classes at Sycamore Creek. Students will ***not*** be allowed to participate when inappropriate footwear is worn. It is important that students are able to perform safely and at their best during a physically active lesson. It is recommended that students have athletic shoes each day for safety during Structured Play, as well. Students are encouraged to develop a habit of putting their tennis shoes on their feet or in their bookbag each day to be prepared for an active day at Sycamore Creek. ***Flip Flops, Crocs, Toms, and Athletic Sandals*** are comfortable and convenient, but are ***not*** acceptable in Physical Education classes.

Also, in order for your child's class to earn a *chompliment* in Physical Education, everyone must be *Prepared to learn* by wearing tennis shoes. Thank you in advance for ensuring that your child is prepared for a safe and active day at Sycamore Creek.