Welcome to 4th Grade!

Dear Incoming 4th Grade Students and Parents,

Congratulations to all students for successfully completing 3rd grade! We look forward to having all of you in 4th grade!

We recognize this school year has been like any other. However, we have heard the 3rd graders persevered and did a great job. We know you are all ready to close the laptops and stow them away. We get it, we are too! Summer vacation is a time to embody Habit 7 by *Sharpening the Saw* to rest, renew, and rejuvenate. Once your child has unwound and starts to feel a little bit of the summer doldrums, please make some time for reading, writing, and math to keep these skills and habits fluid.

We can spend the next year shouting from the rooftops, “WE NEED TO GET CAUGHT UP!” But, that shouting isn’t going to get us anywhere. The greatest impact will be to commit to working as a team: student, teacher, and parent. As teachers, we will do our best to engage and push each child forward on his/her educational path. As students, to recognize that effort and attitude make all the difference. And as parents, to support their children through the good days and the tough days, reminding them that feelings of confusion and minor frustration are often signals to “keep pushing and keep learning!”.

The summer assignments and school supply list will also be posted on the site.

**Read, Read, Read!**

Reading is the foundation for all the work we will do together in 4th grade. Schedule some quiet time several days a week to keep up with favorite characters. Attached is a highly suggested Summer Reading List. Students are expected to read one fiction and one nonfiction book and complete corresponding activities. These completed assignments will be collected and graded on the first day of school.

All students are encouraged to read more than these 2 books! Students can read additional titles from the list or from favorite authors. Please visit the public library (the branches are opening once again!) and choose books that are of high interest and just right. The librarians are always happy to match children with the perfect book. 4th Graders work to earn 20 points each quarter on Accelerated Reader. How great will it feel to come in on the first day of school ready to take at least 2 Accelerated Reader quizzes?! Visit Chicago Public Libraries online for more information: [http://www.chipublib.org/](http://www.chipublib.org/)

**Journaling**

Keep a record of summer adventures by writing in a journal. Also take time to write creative new stories to practice the skills you learned in 3rd grade.

**Math**

It is important for all fourth grade students to quickly solve multi-digit addition and subtraction problems as well as recall the basic facts of multiplication, and division from memory. This quick recall will allow students to solve more complex problems like multi-digit multiplication and division problems and problems involving fractions. Please take time this summer to work with flashcards, on the computer, or activity sheets. We recommend students keep in the habit of using math vocabulary terms like sum, difference, product and quotient, rather than “the answer.” This goes a surprisingly long way in preparing students for higher level math.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example Problems:</th>
<th>5 x 6 =</th>
<th>36 ÷ 9 =</th>
<th>9 x 6 =</th>
<th>64 ÷ 8 =</th>
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Attached you will find a variety of math review sheets. The activities were selected based on the 3rd grade standards that need additional attention plus a few topics to extend understanding. This packet will be collected and graded on the first day of school.

**IXL: **Student accounts should be available throughout the summer. Please log on from time to time to work on Reading, Writing, and Math skills.

Finally, the most important thing is to enjoy time with your family and stay safe over the summer.
We look forward to meeting you in September.

Sincerely,

Ms. Finke, Room 203
Ms. Ellis, Room 204

4th Grade Site
[https://sites.google.com/cps.edu/4thfinke/home](https://sites.google.com/cps.edu/4thfinke/home)
If you do not have a working printer, no problem! Students can record their responses in a notebook. Please help your child to label notebook work with titles and numbers as needed.

Incoming 4th Grade Summer Reading List

Directions: Students are expected to read one fiction and one nonfiction book. In addition to reading the books, students will complete a writing activity for each book. Of course, children are encouraged to read as many books as possible this summer!

Completed activities are due on the first day of school.

Fiction

Ivy and Bean (Series) by Annie Barrows
When Bean plays a mean trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor, who is less boring than Bean first suspected. These books are part of a series. Choose at least one book, read, and complete a fiction book report.

Clubhouse Mysteries Book 1: The Buried Bones Mystery by Sharon M. Draper
Best friends Ziggy, Rashawn, Jerome, and Rico decide to form a clubhouse, complete with secret codes, meetings, and special treasures. Join them as they solve mysteries, find their courage and help their community in this fun and heartwarming series! These books are part of a series. Choose at least one book, read, and complete a fiction book report.

The Time Warp Trio (Series) by Jon Scieszka
The zany time traveling trio of Fred, Joe, and Sam never fail to amuse and educate in their crazy adventures. These books are part of a series. Choose at least one book, read, and complete a fiction book report.

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans’ Ninth Ward. She doesn’t have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya’s visions show a powerful hurricane—Katrina—fast approaching, it’s up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm. Read and complete a fiction book report.

The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney
You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That’s what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true! In addition to his classroom escapades, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. Soon Humphrey learns to read, write, and even shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course). Humphrey has friends, adventures, and a cage with a lock that doesn’t lock. His life would be perfect, if only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn’t out to get him! (Sequels available)

Last Summer with Maizon by Jacqueline Woodson
Margaret loves her parents and hanging out with her best friend, Maizon. Then it happens, like a one-two punch, during the summer she turns eleven: first, Margaret’s father dies of a heart attack, and then Maizon is accepted at an expensive boarding school, far away from the city they call home. For the first time in her life, Margaret has to turn to someone who isn’t Maizon, who doesn’t know her heart and her dreams. . .
Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea
It’s the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There’s . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who’s having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn’t let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything—and everyone.

Nonfiction

Brooklyn Bridge by Lynn Curlee
The Brooklyn Bridge receives handsome tribute here as a great accomplishment of engineering and human labor. Full-page paintings provide impressive views of the underwater excavation of foundations, the construction of the anchoring towers, and the suspension of cables. While the text explains the technical aspects of construction, it also recounts the costly efforts of the Roebling family and the laborers.

What Color is My World? How African-American Inventors Changed the Way We Live by Kareem Abdul Jabar
Did you know that James West invented the microphone in your cell phone? That Fred Jones invented the refrigerated truck that makes supermarkets possible? Or that Dr. Percy Julian synthesized cortisone from soy, easing untold people’s pain? These are just some of the black inventors and innovators scoring big points in this dynamic look at several unsung heroes who shared a desire to improve people’s lives. Offering profiles with fast facts on flaps and framed by a funny contemporary story featuring two feisty twins, here is a nod to the minds behind the gamma electric cell and the ice-cream scoop, improvements to traffic lights, open-heart surgery, and more — inventors whose ingenuity and perseverance against great odds made our world safer, better, and brighter.

“Who Was”, “What Was” “Where Is” (Series)

This is a great nonfiction series with lots of options to read about famous people, places, and events. Choose one book from the series to read in its entirety.

http://www.whowasbookseries.com/

Descriptions of books are edited from a variety of sources such as Horn Book Guide Online, Capitol Choices, previous summer reading lists, Amazon.com, and individual cataloging records.
Book 1: FICTION

Title: __________________________________________

Author: __________________________________________

BUILDING VOCABULARY

Complete this section as you read by selecting 5 words that are new to you. Write the words down. Use context clues to help you determine what the words mean.

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<th>Unknown Word</th>
<th>Context Clues</th>
<th>My Definition</th>
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PREDICTING - Be an Active Reader

As you read, try to figure out what will happen next and how the selection might end. Make your prediction and include what happened in the text that guided you to this prediction.

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<tr>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Prediction</th>
<th>Text Clues</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>What do I think will happen next?</td>
<td>What happened in the text that made me think this?</td>
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Book 1: FICTION, cont.

THE STORY ELEMENTS

Important Characters: ______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Setting (Where and when the story takes place)

________________________________________________________________________

Problem - Write in Complete Sentences

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Plot – The Main Events Write in Complete Sentences

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Resolution - Write in Complete Sentences

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Book 2: NONFICTION

Title: __________________________________________________________

Author: _________________________________________________________

BEFORE READING

Explain why you selected this book. A one sentence answer is not enough to answer this question completely. Use your space wisely and be specific in explaining why you chose the book. Always write in complete sentences (subject and a predicate), capitalize all proper nouns and the first word of a sentence, and use proper punctuation.

Reason you selected the book

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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BUILDING VOCABULARY

Complete this section as you read by selecting 5 words that are new to you. Write the words down. Use context clues to help you determine what the words mean.

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In each box, write and illustrate something you learned while reading this book.

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