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 **Miss Knapp and Miss Guidos’s**

**Fourth Grade**

**Parent Information**

**Welcome to the 4th grade classrooms! Our names are Miss Christie Knapp and Miss Amanda Guidos, and we are very happy to be at MCES teaching your fourth grade children.**

**GOALS FOR FOURTH GRADE PROGRAM:**

Our goal is to provide your child with an exciting and challenging school experience. The children will work on developing organizational skills and completing independent work with a strong sense of personal responsibility in a faith based environment, while being challenged at their own individual level.

**COMMUNICATION:**

We will make every effort to keep you informed about our class activities and your child’s progress. If you ever have a question or concern, please feel free to contact us. We will be using these communication tools:

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* **Planners:** The planners will list all of our day’s homework assignments. We are asking that the **planners be checked over and signed each night** by a parent or a caregiver.

**Each student will document his/her behavior for the day here** with a ☺ 1 2 3 4 code. A smile means they had a great day and did not move their pin; a 1 means they moved their pin to a warning; a 2 means they moved their pin twice and missed five minutes of recess; a 3 means they moved their pin three times and we will be contacting you; a 4 means they moved their pin four times and received a detention.

* **Webpage**: We will update our class webpages for each week by Sunday evening. We will post tests and important dates on the website. The spelling list(s) for each week are also posted there.
* **Email:** You can email us at cknapp@monroecatholicschools.com or guidos@monroecatholicschools.com. **We are usually only able to check email at the end of the school day, so please send a written note or call the office if your message pertains to that day.**
* **Phone/Texting:** You can call the school office and leave a message if you would like to speak with us, or send an email asking us to call you. We will call you back as soon as we are able to. We do not use text messaging as a means of communication in 4th grade.

**HOMEWORK:**

The students will have homework Monday through Friday. The students have red homework folders that need to be returned each day. We will send checked work home in a finished work folder, usually on Fridays. Please return the checked work folder to school on Monday with your child.

* **Reading Homework**: Students are expected to read for 15-20 minutes M-F and sometimes on weekends. A reading log will be used for students to document that they have read. Please sign the reading log nightly, as this is a portion of their reading grade.
* **Late Homework**: If homework is late, 10 percentage points will be deducted and the student will be required to work on the missing assignment during one of the recess periods. This will allow him or her to keep up with the material covered in class. The missing work will need to be turned in to receive credit. Please send a note if there is a valid reason that homework was not done. Late work will not be accepted past two days late, not counting work from absences. Late work past two days late will result in a “0” for that assignment in PowerSchool.
* **Absent Work:** If your child is absent from school and you would like to pick up the homework, the absence must be reported in the morning **before 8:30 a.m**. with a specific request for homework at that time with the school office. Homework will not be available for pick-up until 2:45 p.m. in the school office. Students are allowed one day for each day they are absent to make up missing work.

**POWERSCHOOL:**

Grades will be posted on PowerSchool weekly.



**GRADES:**

The MCES/AOD grading scale is as follows:

 A 95-100% C 76-82%

 A- 93-94% C- 74-75%

 B+ 91-92% D+ 72-73%

 B 87-90% D 68-71%

**** B- 85-86% D- 65-67%

 C+ 83-84% F 0-64%

**BEHAVIOR:**

We aim to create a classroom that is emotionally and physically safe for all children to learn and grow. Good behavior is a requirement for any classroom. We will create this atmosphere in the classroom by stressing the importance of the virtues. We will also be using a school form to document behavior issues and a conduct/effort grade will be noted on the report card. In addition to an in class pin system, the students will receive a Teacher-Parent Communication Notice to let you know of any issues that arise in the classroom. The class will receive rewards for good behavior throughout the year.

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**SNACK & WATER:**

The children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack each day for

the morning break. We do have children with peanut allergies this year, so please check the acceptable peanut free list on the school web page. Students may keep a water bottle in their locker only. Water bottles are not allowed in the classroom except during snack. No morning “drive- through drinks” should be brought in to school.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

We are asking that the children bring in a **non-edible** treat for their birthday, such as pencils or stickers. This is optional.

**DRESS CODE:** We will be strictly adhering to the MCES dress code on the 4th Grade floor. Please watch that the socks (only black, white, navy, or tan) are covering the ankle, and that girl’s headbands are solid school designated colors. Dress Code Violation forms will be issued for students that are out of dress code. Please refer to school dress code policy on the website.

**BOOK ORDERS:**

We will be using Scholastic Book Clubs this year. Miss Knapp will be handling book orders through Scholastic for the fourth grade classes. You may only order online. When sending your orders online, go to scholastic.com and use the code **P6LN2**. Do not send orders or money to school. When on the website, make sure you are using the correct code and are under Miss Knapp’s account only.

**CURRICULUM**

The following is an outline of the fourth grade curriculum which follows either our state, AOD, or national (common core) standards:

**ALL SUBJECTS:**

Tests will be given at the end of all chapters to assess what the student has learned. Tests are weighted times 2, meaning they count twice. Study guides are typically provided to assist the students in preparing for the tests.

Quizzes are given randomly throughout a chapter to assess knowledge up to that point. Advance notice is often given, however there may be occasional “pop” quizzes. Quizzes are weighted at times 1.5.

Homework can be expected nightly. All homework is graded for completeness, neatness, and correct answers. It is weighted at times 1.

**MATH:**

Miss Guidos will be teaching math this year. MCES students will be using *Progress in Mathematics,* by Sadlier-Oxford. This program is a very traditional approach to fundamental math with emphasis on understanding concepts and procedural fluency. The components include a textbook, worksheets, and student online resources. Miss Guidos will try to supplement the text with class and home math games as well as computer activities.

 The students will work hard on competency of basic +-X/ facts by doing a timed 2-minute paper most days. This will not be competitive; students will track and graph their own individual scores.

 Miss Guidos will grade the daily homework, some class work, and all quizzes and tests. A test will be given at the end of each chapter. Any questions pertaining to math should be directed to Miss Guidos.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:**

We will be focusing on United States regions, economics and government using the TCI series, which includes a textbook. The students will keep a notebook, and will often work in small groups. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter. Students will have occasional questions to answer for homework about material covered in class that day. The answers to these questions can be found in their textbook and will help them prepare for the tests.

**RELIGION:**

We will be using the *We Believe* textbook, which includes the topics of beliefs, worship, living the Catholic faith, mini retreats, and prayer. A test will be given as we complete each chapter, typically on Fridays. School Mass is on Tuesday at 8:15. The 4th Graders have the opportunity to be altar servers and/or choir members. They will also attend Atrium again this year with Sister Nancy.

**READING:**

We will be using the *Wonders* Program with various supplemental resources:

* Literature anthology
* Reading/Writing Worksheets
* Online videos and games
* Vocabulary cards
* Differentiated leveled mini-reading books
* Writing Workstation activities
* Reading A-Z online themed books
* Assessments
* Grammar lessons

The children will be participating in individual, small, and large group instruction. Students will develop skills through short mini-lessons, independent reading, and student-teacher conferences. We will work with many reading strategies including: retelling, visualizing, making

inferences, summarizing, and locating the main idea. Students

will explore and investigate genres of literature while working on comprehension strategies. The students will be using a Reader’s Notebook and Reading Logs throughout the course of the year. They will also work on strengthening their reading comprehension skills of both fiction and non-fiction reading material.

**WRITING and ENGLISH GRAMMAR:**

Miss Knapp will be teaching English Grammar, Writing, and Spelling to the students this year. We will use the Writing Process during our Writers’ Workshop, and we will use *Voyages* for English Grammar. The students will learn to write for a variety of purposes (inform, poetry, narrative). Mechanics, spelling, and grammar will also be addressed in English class and during the Writing Workshop. Writing assignments will be completed in a Writer’s Notebook and several pieces will be taken to a “published” level.



**SPELLING:**

The spelling lists are from the *Evan-Moor* program. Spelling homework will be given throughout the week and tests will usually be given on Friday. Students can use the spellingcity.com website to practice their spelling words. The weekly list is found under Miss Knapp’s name on spellingcity.com.

**SCIENCE:**

The science topics for our fourth grade students include:

* Scientific Method & Engineering
* Plant & Animals
* Energy & Ecosystems
* Weather
* Earth & Space
* Matter
* Energy & Motion
* Electricity

We will use the *Fusion* program whereby the students participate in hands-on labs and complete some research on their own. The students will have workbooks and notebooks. We will also incorporate online learning labs. Quizzes will be given throughout the chapter and tests will be given periodically. It will be important that students review their notes often. Students will need to apply the information learned in class on tests and quizzes. Tests and quizzes are about applying the material, not simply memorizing it.

**SAFETY:**

As a school we are asking that you arrive at St. John’s no earlier than 7:25 a.m., as there is no teacher supervision until that time. Also, if you attend Mass with your child, you must accompany them to the restroom in the foyer. It’s important that no child be left alone at any time on campus. Thank you!

**ART, MUSIC, TECHNOLOGY & PHYSICAL EDUCATION:**

These classes will be taught by teachers from the Monroe Public Schools.

We will follow their 4-day rotation, so the classes will meet for 45-50 minutes on different days each week. We will post the schedule on our webpages each week. The children wear their gym clothes and shoes to school on PE days. The current schedule is expected to be: Day One – gym; Day Two – music; Day Three – art; Day Four – technology.





**CHOIR:**

The 4th Grade students may participate in choir during school masses. Mrs. Cooke will still be working with the students in the choir. Depending on the numbers, they may sing weekly or bi-weekly. Some students may be asked to cantor. If your student is interested in participating in choir, please fill out the permission slip for choir and return it by the end of the first week of school.

**ALTAR SERVING:**

The 4th Grade students may participate in altar serving at St. John School masses on Tuesdays. To be an altar server, the student must be Catholic and have made their first communion. Students will be trained by the Priest at the beginning of school. Students will serve on a rotating basis among all 4th Grade students. If you student is interested in participating in altar serving, please fill out the permission slip for altar serving and return it by the end of the first week of school. If they are interested in serving at either St. Mike’s or St. Mary’s masses, please contact that parish office for information about altar serving for that parish.

**BANKING OFFICERS:**

The 4th Grade students serve as banking officers for Monroe Bank & Trust banking days. They must fill out an application to be considered for the positions. Students will receive the applications at school, and they must turn them in to Miss Knapp by the end of the first week of school. Depending on the number of interested students, they may serve for one marking period or the entire year.

**ABOUT US:**

**Miss Christie Knapp**

I have been teaching in the Archdiocese of Detroit for eighteen years. I worked at St. Joseph in Erie, Michigan for ten years, and am currently starting my eighth year with MCES. I earned my Bachelor’s in Education from Eastern Michigan University. I have an Elementary Education degree with focuses in science, social studies, and language arts. I completed my Master’s Degree in Education through Nova Southeastern University. My Master’s Degree focused on aligning the curriculum and assessments and the use of technology in the classroom. I love teaching and can’t imagine doing anything else! I am looking forward working with my awesome new students and their families throughout the school year.

I live in Temperance with my dogs Tatter and Tott, and my cats Pebbles and Bam Bam, Moonie, and the triplets Roscoe, Romeo, and Rosie. I enjoy spending time with my adorable nieces, Olivia and Sophia. When I am not babysitting the girls or walking the dogs, I enjoy camping, fishing, playing volleyball, reading, and relaxing. You can often find me grilling and relaxing by a bonfire during the evening hours with friends and family. My faith and family are very important in my life. I am a life-long member of St. Gabriel Parish – St. Joseph in Ida. This past summer I went to Italy with my dad for ten days. I can’t wait to share my faith and experiences with my new students this year! I’m looking forward to the year ahead with your children!

**Miss Amanda Guidos**

Hi! My name is Amanda Guidos and I will be joining the 4th grade teaching team at St. John’s! I graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in Science and Social Studies. I currently live in Monroe, Michigan and belong to St. Mary’s Catholic Church. I attended catholic schools, K-12, at Christ the King in Toledo, OH, St. Mary’s in Collingwood, ON, Canada, and SMCC in Monroe, MI. I am excited to share my love of the Catholic faith with the MCES community.

****While teaching and being a student myself, I have been able to discover the joy in connecting life around us through all subjects and look forward to exploring these relationships with the 4th grade. I have a passion for science, learning new ideas, and striving to be our best selves that fosters the idea to: Make. Care. Embrace. Seek. I am thrilled to be part of the St. John’s and Monroe Catholic Elementary Schools family and cannot wait to see what the 2019-2020 school year brings!

**Stay tuned to the websites!**

 **Miss Christie Knapp and Miss Amanda Guidos**