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 **Ms. Knapp and Mrs. Byron’s**

**Fourth Grade**

**Parent Information**

**Welcome to the 4th grade classrooms! Our names are Ms. Christie Knapp and Mrs. Amanda Byron, 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 directly. 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, missed recess, 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 Weebly 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. We will both be using Google Classroom for distance learners or if we need to go to all distance learning.
* **Email:** You can email us at cknapp@monroecatholicschools.com or byron@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. Meetings need to be scheduled, not drop-in.

**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 10-15 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 recess. 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 FACTS.
* **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.

**FACTS:**

Grades will be posted on FACTS weekly. Please check the FACTS website weekly for missing assignments and assignment scores.



**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 stress the importance of the virtues. We will also be using the FACTS system to document behavior issues, and a conduct/effort grade will be noted on the report card. The class will receive rewards for good behavior throughout the year.

**SNACK & WATER:**

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

the morning break. We do have children with allergies this year, so please check the acceptable peanut free list on the school web page. Students may keep a water bottle at their desk. 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. **Edible birthday treats will not be distributed in the classrooms**.

**DRESS CODE:** We will be strictly adhering to the MCES dress code on the 4th Grade floor. Dress Code Violations will be issued for students that are out of dress code, and parents will be required to bring the proper uniform attire to school. Dress code violations will be noted in the FACTS system. Please refer to school dress code policy on the website. Students may also have face masks to wear at school when needed.

**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. 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.

Homework can be expected nightly. All homework is graded for completeness, neatness, and correct answers.

**MATH:**

Mrs. Byron will be teaching math this year to both classes. 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. Mrs. Byron will try to supplement the text with class and home math games as well as computer activities.

 Mrs. Byron 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 Mrs. Byron.

**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 notes, 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:**

Ms. Knapp will be teaching English Grammar and Writing to the students in both classes 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. Any questions pertaining to English Grammar, Writing, or Spelling should be directed to Ms. Knapp.



**SPELLING:**

Ms. Knapp will also be teaching Spelling for both classes. 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 Ms. 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 and Health:**

As a school we are asking that you arrive at St. John’s no earlier than 7:30 a.m. for drop off, as there is no teacher supervision until that time. Students are able to use hand sanitizer in the classroom, and desks are wiped down daily. Please do not send your child to school if they are showing any signs of illness.

**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 unknown, but we will post it as soon as we receive it from MPS.





**Atrium:**

Students will have Atrium with Sr. Nancy this year. Atrium will be once a week for 50 minutes. It is a hands-on approach to learning more about their faith, as well as a great way for them to strengthen their personal relationship with God.

**Choir:**

The 4th Grade students will be able to participate in choir this year. They will be under the direction of Mrs. Amy Cooke. If they decide to join choir, they will sing on a rotational basis at our weekly school masses. More information will follow at a later date.

**ALTAR SERVING:**

The 4th Grade students will be able to participate in altar serving this year. To altar serve, they must be Catholic and have made their First Communion. More information will follow at a later date.



**ABOUT US:**

**Ms. Christie Knapp**

I have been teaching in the Archdiocese of Detroit for twenty-one years. I have worked at St. Joseph, Erie and MCES. I earned my Bachelor’s in Education from Eastern Michigan University with focuses in science, social studies, and language arts. I completed my Master’s Degree in Education through Nova Southeastern University with focuses 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, and the triplets Roscoe, Romeo, and Rosie. My life the past six months has been pretty crazy because I have been undergoing a whole house renovation that should be …fingers crossed… completed in October! I enjoy spending time with my nieces, Olivia and Sophia. When I am not shopping with them 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. 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!

**Mrs. Amanda Byron**

Hi! I will be starting my fourth year teaching fourth grade at St. John’s. I love working for MCES and getting to know all of the families. I graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in Science and Social Studies. I 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 live in Monroe with my husband Tim and our puppy, Winston. I love spending time with family and friends. I am excited for the upcoming school year and getting to know your amazing children!

**Stay tuned to the websites!**

 **Ms. Christie Knapp and Mrs. Amanda Byron**