

# ***Nautilus Elementary***

## ***2006-2007 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Syllabus***

### ***Mrs. Heather Day***

## **CURRICULUM**

### **READING**

Using the State Standards students will participate in Guided Reading groups according to their reading level using books of interest, as well as books that are integrated with social studies and science.

They will be required to participate in the following activities:

- Language Arts Workshop
- Read and Lead program with PTA
- Accelerated Reader / Day Tests
- Reading Response to classroom read-aloud stories and guided reading books
- Independent reading and goal setting

### **WRITING**

Using the Step Up To Writing program, students will learn the writing process from pre-write to the finished product to meet State Standards at their grade level. This will include writing specialized paragraphs, a multi-paragraph essays, and narrative stories. Students will work on including organization, relevant content, style, and the necessary conventions within their writing.

### **MATH**

Using the State Standards in Mathematics, lessons will be used from Investigations, Washington Math Problem Solving, and other supplemental materials. Students will have multiple opportunities to experience hands-on activities to further develop mathematical concepts. Students will also be assigned objectives in the Accelerated Math program to match the classroom content.

- Students will be responsible for home study of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts for timed math tests in the classroom.

### **SCIENCE / HEALTH**

Science will be taught with district science kits and include the following units:

Motion and Design (Fall)                      Water (Spring)

Health: The Great Body Shop

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Our focus will be Northwest Coastal Indians as a tie to Washington State History. In addition, we will be reading Scholastic News as resource to learn about current events in our world.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Students will work on keyboarding skills, word processing, Power Point presentations, and Internet research (with parental permission).

### **ART**

Students will be graded on skills/concepts and participation on art activities.

### **MUSIC** (Teacher: Mrs. Walker)

Students will participate in music for two periods in a 6-day rotation and the grade-level musical concert in the spring. Grading will be on skills/concepts and participation.

### **HEALTH AND FITNESS EDUCATION** (Teacher: Mr. Underwood)

Students will learn activities and safety to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle.

**Students are asked to dress appropriately on P.E. days.**

### **LIBRARY** (Librarian: Mrs. McElfish)

Students will meet with the librarian one day a week. Books are always due the day of library.

## STUDY SKILLS

- Students are required to keep and update a weekly homework calendar, which is to be kept in their homework folder at all times.
- Students are required to keep and update a monthly calendar where they will record long term projects, special events, specialist days, class birthdays, Read and Lead dates, etc. This is also to be kept in your child's homework folder.

## HELPING YOUR CHILD SUCCEED

- Take the time to read with your child each day. Just listening to them read out loud has been proven to be extremely valuable. Attached you will find an article showing just how important this can be in your child's academic success. Sharing your love of reading is one of the best things you can do for them!
- Visit the public library and have your child pick out some books. You can check out as many as you'd like!
- Consider purchasing books from our class book orders. It's often the most inexpensive way you can get them!
- Check your child's homework folder each night and talk with them about what they did at school each day. Don't take "nothing" for an answer!
- Please offer to assist your child, if needed, when they work on homework, but do not do the assignment for them. If you provide assistance, please indicate (write a note) in the margin of the paper any difficulty your child experienced.

## HOMEWORK

- Homework is provided to give students additional practice on concepts and skills taught in class. It will be assigned almost every night during the week and should not take students more than 20 to 30 minutes to complete (not including independent reading). Provide a quiet, comfortable place for your child to work - free from distractions!
- Completed homework is usually due the next day.
- It is expected that students do their best work and use nice penmanship on all classroom assignments, as well as homework assignments. Sloppy, rushed, and late work is unacceptable.
- When your child is finished with their homework, they should bring it to you for you to look over. If it is complete, sign the calendar and be sure all homework is placed back in your child's homework folder.
- It is your child's responsibility to remember to bring their independent reading book and homework folder home and back to school every single day. They will focus on the same independent reading book in class and at home, as I do not want them flipping back and forth between books.

## GRADING

- Students' grades are based on the work that they complete, as well as their class participation in discussions. Student work is evaluated on completeness, accuracy, and the overall quality of their work.
- An exceeding grade is marked with a +, a meeting grade is marked with a  $\sqrt{+}$  or a  $\sqrt{}$ , an approaching grade is marked with a  $\sqrt{-}$ , and a below grade is marked with a -.

## STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

- Students are coached to verbalize their learning and set goals needed to complete fourth grade in preparation for their conference in October. They will keep a portfolio of selected work in their binder to share with you.

## ABSENCES

Students will have one day for each day absent to make up missed work. Be sure to notify the office if your child is absent so the absence can be excused. 253-945-3401

## **TEACHER CONTACT**

Please feel free to contact me regarding your child's progress, homework, or classroom assignments:

- **Classroom:** 253-945-3417 (It is my policy not to answer the phone during instructional times. Please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, call the office.)
- **School e-mail:** [hday@fwps.org](mailto:hday@fwps.org)

**Please do not forget to provide an Emergency Kit for your child.  
If we have an emergency, you will not want your child to be without the  
comfort of having something from you.**

# Back to School Tidbits

Mrs. Day Room 1 Nautilus Elementary

## ABSENCE

- \* Please call the office in the morning if your child will be absent (253-945-3402). Send a note when your child returns to school, indicating reason for absence to prevent unexcused absences.
- \* If your child is late for school, they need to report to the office for a tardy slip.
- \* If your child will be leaving school early, please go to the office to sign him/her out. They will call your child to the office when this is done. Please try to pick your child up during recess or lunch times to minimize classroom disruption.

## BIRTHDAYS

You may send small treats for your child to share with the class on their birthday. Please do not send a cake or plan a party for school. Small, non-messy snacks (cookies, gummi snacks, cupcakes) to eat during our snack or at the end of the day are best.

## DAILY SCHEDULE

We will work with a 6-day schedule as follows:

**Day 1:** Music

**Day 2:** P.E.

**Day 3:** Computers

**Day 4:** Music

**Day 5:** P.E.

**Day 6:** Computers

**Library Day** is one day a week. All books are due back **the day of library**.

Students are allowed to go to the library during lunch time to return and check out new books.

Students should check the schedule and dress appropriately on P.E. days.

## HOMEWORK

Daily homework is a very important expectation in the class. You can expect your child to come home with homework on a daily basis, which is usually due the next day. Your child will fill out a weekly homework calendar, which lists the homework for the day and the due date, as well as a monthly calendar to keep track of important events, the specialist schedule, and long-term projects. You can always expect your child to read a minimum of 30 minutes a night. There is a spot on the weekly calendar for a parent signature for each night of the week. It is your child's responsibility to have you check their homework and to sign the calendar verifying that they read for at least 30 minutes and that any additional homework is done correctly. In addition, it is your child's responsibility to bring their homework folder and their independent reading book to and from school every single day. There will be consequences for those students who forget these items. Students who do not turn in homework can expect to stay in for recess to complete it. The completion of homework does affect your child's grades. Every two months, I reward those students who have done a good job of completing homework with "Dessert Club". Absent students will have the same amount of days they missed to make up assignments.

## HOMEWORK FOLDERS

One side of your child's homework folder is labeled "Take Out". This is paper work from the office, communication from me, and class work for you to see and keep. The other side of the folder is labeled "Homework and Calendar". This is where your child's homework and calendar is to be placed at all times.

## WRITING

I always require that students use their best penmanship whether they print or use cursive - on ALL assignments. We will work on cursive letters throughout the year and I will let students know when they must use this form. However, it is more important that their writing is their best and that I can read it! **Neatness counts and makes big points in my book!**

## **ACCELERATED READER / DAY POINTS**

Accelerated Reader (AR) is another very important expectation in the class. This is an effective program that allows me to monitor your child's independent reading and their comprehension. Your child is required to check out and concentrate on one book from the library, home, or the classroom. This is the book that they are expected to bring to and from school every day. The students are to set goals so that they finish the book within a reasonable amount of time. Upon completion of the book, they are to take a comprehension test on the computer. You can expect to see an AR report that shows your child's progress every couple of months. Your child's independent reading progress highly affects their reading grade. If your child is reading a book that is not AR, they can take a written test and earn "DAY" points.

## **LUNCH**

Hot lunch menus are sent home each month. Students can bring lunch from home or purchase.

**Cost: \$2.00 per lunch.** You are encouraged to purchase a ticket for your child for any number of lunches rather than send cash each day.

Easy: 10 punches: \$20.00 20 punches: \$40.00

## **SCHOLASTIC NEWS**

Please send a check for **\$5.00**, made out to **Scholastic News** for your child's subscription. We will use this resource to read about current events and to learn more about nonfiction text features and structures.

## **SELF-CARE**

- \* Students are allowed to bring a small water bottle to fill with **water only**. (It must be leakproof or it will be sent home.) Students may use the drinking fountain during designated times as well.
- \* We do not have a restroom attached to our classroom. Students will be encouraged to use the restroom during our morning break, recess, and lunch times. For emergencies, students will use a pass to go to the restroom on the other side of our pod.
- \* Students should dress appropriately for the weather. They will not be allowed to stay in the classroom if they "forgot their coat"!

## **SNACK TIME**

- \* During our long morning of learning, we stop for 15 minutes to revitalize our minds and bodies with a snack.
- \* Please send a small, healthy snack, such as fruit, veggies, or crackers for your child.
- \* Each child is responsible for bringing his or her own small snack each day and students are not allowed to share with one another.
- \* There are days when some of the children forget their snacks. If you would like to donate extra snacks for me to hand out to these children, it would be very much appreciated!

## **STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES**

Nautilus will implement Student-Led Conferences again this year. Your child will be using their binder as a portfolio of selected work to share with you at conference time and other designated times throughout the year.

## **SUPPLIES**

- \* Three-ring binder (1 1/2 or 2 inch is best) with 6 to 8 dividers
- \* 2 PeeChee/ Folders with pockets in the bottom
- \* 3 spiral notebooks
- \* Eraser
- \* Pens: 2 red and 2 black OR blue
- \* 4 glue sticks (*NO liquid glue - see note below*)
- \* Crayons, markers, colored pencils
- \* 3 dozen #2 pencils with back-up supply at home
- \* Ruler (should have metric and standard)
- \* Student scissors
- \* Small calculator
- \* Pencil box (approx. 9x5x2.5)
- \* Box of kleenex
- \* Clipboard

Your child does not need a stapler, tape dispenser or any supply that will encourage distraction!

**Students will need to replenish any lost or used-up supplies.**

## **TEACHER CONTACT**

Office: 253-945-3400

School E-mail: [hday@fwps.org](mailto:hday@fwps.org)

Classroom: 253-945-3417

Or, send a note with your child.

I will always return your call or e-mail as quickly as I can. It is my policy to *not* answer the phone while I am teaching. If you try to call during class time, please leave a message OR if the message is urgent, call the office and they will contact me.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call. I look forward to working with your child this year.

Sincerely,

Heather Day