Thankful for the 4th Grade!!
Mrs. Beers’ Class – November 2021

Flexibility is Key!

The beginning of November has been a little challenging, but the students are doing an awesome job making the best of it! Due to more quarantines, I have been teaching using a hybrid model, where kids from home zoom into the classroom and participate in the live lessons along with their peers. The expectations are similar for them, as they should be engaged, asking questions, and doing the required work. While they may only be online for an hour each time, they have activities they can work on independently to keep them practicing skills and learning. Again, students use technology daily in school and know how to access their school accounts through available devices. If you have any questions about how to continue making progress despite quarantine, illness, or planned days out, please contact me at nbeers@msad54.org.

Individualized Learning

Now that I’ve had opportunities to observe and assess students’ strengths and areas for improvement, I’m happy to utilize the resources available to tailor learning tasks to suit students’ individual needs. One important tool is the IXL program the district provides. By inputting data and developing skill plans, students can have additional practice on numerous skills to help them make growth and meet standards. While I incorporate some time for this practice at school, students are welcomed and encouraged to log in at home, too.

Curriculum Topics

Soon, the students will be finishing up Topic 3 in Math, which has them working on foundational multiplication strategies to complete multi-digit by single digit equations. While doing it the “old school way” (standard algorithm), is the ultimate goal, it is essential to have kids practice other strategies for solving problems. These methods help to solidify their understanding of place value and reasons behind regrouping. Becoming proficient with two or more strategies also gives them the chance to check their work and build confidence with their answers. These strategies will be used again with Topic 4, which will be multiplying by double digits.

Reading tasks continue to support both science and social studies topics, while learning how to annotate text and develop skills to comprehend nonfiction texts. The read aloud title, Wonder, continues to capture the students’ interest and drives important discussions about character traits and making good choices with regards to the differences of people. We’ve been reading the classic, Sign of the Beaver as a whole group. Using graphic organizers, we are discussing and applying many literature skills with this historical fiction text.

In Science, we will move into lessons concerning the human body. Social Studies topics will involve information about colonial America and native cultures, along with exploring a variety of maps.

Sharing Progress and Goals for Growth

In the next two weeks, students will be analyzing assessment results, academic expectations and progress. We will celebrate successes and make goals for growth for the remainder of the year. They should be prepared to share their learning and goals with family at parent-teacher conferences later this month. Conferences via Zoom have been encouraged and hopefully families will be able to schedule a time to meet with me on Monday, November 22nd. My plan is to allow half-hour time slots for each student and their parents/guardians. Please watch for an e-mail I’ll be sending next week (November 8-12th) with times and additional information. I look forward to visiting with folks soon! I’m grateful for your children and the awesome year we’ve had thus far!