2nd Trimester Expectations

We made it through November & December! Despite quarantines, conferences, and holidays, we continue to successfully move forward through the curriculum. Please keep in mind that if your child needs to be out for several days, they are welcome to bring home a laptop and materials to keep working on mastering skills. Absent students are invited to zoom into the classroom and participate in the live lessons along with their peers with hybrid learning. 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.

I have explained to the class that there will be a gradual increase in expectations during this 2nd trimester, with the hopes of helping students be more accountable, independent, and motivated to share their knowledge with peers. At this crucial age, students can learn to be advocates for themselves. I encourage them to be empowered to learn from mistakes, ask questions, and request assistance if they need it. Also, now that children are in the habit of having homework every night, I am holding them accountable should they forget or choose not to make an effort to work on it. Again, I do not grade homework, but look for a genuine attempt with the practice.

Individualized Learning

The class continues to use IXL daily to improve and master skills based on their individual needs. I regularly share class and individual progress with the children and they have enjoyed the opportunities to focus on skills they need improvement upon. I look forward to seeing growth achieved, especially with regards to winter NWEA tests. These will be administered the week of January 10-14. Remember that these assessments are utilized for monitoring progress towards meeting end-of-year fourth grade expectations. While many standards have been taught and met, there are still plenty of skills to work on for the remainder of the year. Once results are reported, I will be happy to share with students and families.

Curriculum Topics

I’m pleased to see the progress that was made and the student confidence that was built with learning strategies for multiplying double digit by double digit. We are now working through Unit 5, which is manipulating those strategies and skills to complete division equations.

We are currently learning about and reviewing the skills necessary to be successful readers of nonfiction. With the completion of the book Wonder, students enjoyed comparing and contrasting the movie with the text to notice similarities and differences. Finishing Sign of the Beaver helped kids learn about early colonial life and Native American culture.

In Science, we finished videos/activities to learn about the human body systems. This month, we are going to learn more about the Earth’s features and processes. Social Studies will complement science and reading, as we read about landforms and the geography of the United States, while also applying reading for information skills with our textbook. We’re continuing to learn the history behind holidays as they arrive and will also begin conversations about the American Revolution.

Before vacation, our class received a 3D printer from the Perloff Foundation to encourage the use of science and technology. This is a new endeavor for myself, but I look forward to learning along with the kids. We are blessed to have several ‘teacher assistants’ who are most eager to help us all use this equipment with ease and creativity.

Teamwork for Growth

It was my pleasure to meet with families during November conferences. Student, parent, and teacher cooperation is vital for both academic and personal growth of each child. I appreciated the conversations and listening to students and parents share goals and suggestions for success. Using this opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning, along with witnessing how their efforts equal the outcomes will hopefully foster the lifelong learner in all of them. I look forward to future meetings to assess progress.

I want to personally thank all students and families for their generosity during Christmastime. I am sincerely humbled by the kindness and compassion these children display on a regular basis. Thank you for your continued support! ~ Mrs. Beers