



4th Grade Handbook

Dear Parents, Welcome to 4th grade. We are looking forward to a super “star studded” year together. The items in this handbook will be presented to the children over the first few weeks as we begin our journey together as 4th graders. Please keep this handbook in the “Important Notes” section of the S.T.A.R. Binder (see below) to serve as a quick reference throughout the year, you may also access it at any time by visiting our class on the web and clicking on “Parent Resources.”

About the Teacher:

I am honored to be your child’s teacher. This is my 2nd year at McDonald Elementary, however this is my 13th year teaching. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and my Master’s degree in Reading from Saint Joseph’s University in Pennsylvania. I am currently attending University of South Florida working on earning an Educational Leadership certification.

I moved to Florida a few years ago and enjoy life here with my husband, Frank, and our English Bulldog puppy that we named Philly after our hometown of Philadelphia.

To learn more about me, and to see a slideshow of my family, check out our website at:

<http://teacherweb.com/fl/mcdonaldelementary/mrscervone>

S.T.A.R. Binder:

Your child has been given a 3 ring binder to serve as their S.T.A.R. Binder. A detailed explanation of the S.T.A.R. is in the “Important Notes” section. This book will serve as our main communication tool and will be a great way to encourage responsibility and organization for your child. Please check your child’s S.T.A.R. Binder each and every night.

Homework:

“I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.” - Lily Tomlin

Because your child will be working in a classroom that is both rigorous and challenging, I believe that "home"work should be minimal. Children should have time to play and spend time with family and friends outside of school. Therefore, the assignments that you will see coming home will only be that which is essential and purposeful, and might include:

- nightly reading of a your child's self-selected independent reading text (about 20 - 30 minutes)
- word work
- extra math practice (assigned based on the needs of your child)
- science projects
- entries in your child's Writer's Notebook and other writing pieces
- other assignments as needed

Weekly Newsletter:

Our weekly newsletter will be found in your child's S.T.A.R. binder every Monday. Please remove it from the S.T.A.R. binder and hang it on your refrigerator so that it can be shared with all family members. Each week our newsletter will be posted online, you can sign up to receive and email when the newsletter is posted by visiting our website at:

<http://teacherweb.com/fl/mcdonaldelementary/mrscervone>

Click on the newsletter icon for more information.

Money:

Anytime it is necessary to send money to school with your child, please place it in an enveloped marked with your child's name on it and my name as well. Please also note the amount of money and the purpose. There will be a clear pouch at the front of your child's S.T.A.R. binder that the money envelopes should be placed in.

Attendance:

Attendance is very important; please take your child's attendance very seriously. When it is necessary for your child to be out, please send a note in to me indicating the reason for the absence.

Your Child's Grades & Progress

Communication about your child's academic progress is vital. Therefore, I am available to speak with you ANYtime regarding

your child's grades or behavior, provided you schedule a conference with me. Midterm Progress Reports will be sent home with ALL students approximately four-five weeks before the end of the nine weeks grading period. More immediate concerns will be discussed either in the agenda or in a conference.

O.S.C.A.R.S Club:

The O.S.C.A.R.S. Club (Outstanding, Studious, Clever, and Remarkable Students) is for students who are interested in going above and beyond the normal classroom expectations. Information about the O.S.C.A.R.S Club can be found in the S.T.A.R. Binders or on our class website. Students can become a 1-star member all the way up to a 75-star member! Once a student has earned 15 stars they will be entered into the O.S.C.A.R.S. Club Hall of Fame!

Classroom Website:

This year I am pleased to offer a website to my students. This website serves as a tool to keep parents and community members in touch with the happenings of our class and it provides a place for students to showcase their accomplishments.

Please visit our class on the web at

<http://teacherweb.com/fl/mcdonaldelementary/mrscervone>

Behavior Policy:

We have several ways in our classroom to encourage positive behavior:

1. COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS: On the first day of school, we discussed how the

members of our classroom community are going to work and live in our classroom. We developed 3 agreements that we have posted around our room and signed to signify our understanding and pledge to adhering to those. They are:

Be Ready & Prepared To Learn Each Day
(School Rule #2: Be Prepared for Class)

Be Safe In & Around School
(School Rules #3: Keep Hands, Feet, & Objects To Yourself)
(School Rule #5: Follow Directions Immediately)

Be Respectful To Your Community Members
(School Rule #1: Listen Attentively)
(School Rule #4: Be Respectful To Others)

2. STARS: There are 3 stars that are posted on the board. Your child has a

magnet with his/her name on it. Three “checkpoints” will be established throughout the day. At these times, if your child is adhering to our community agreements, his/her magnet will move to the next star. If your child is having difficulty adhering to the agreements, the magnet will stay in place until the next checkpoint. If your child’s magnet reaches the third star by the third checkpoint, a sticker will be placed on the behavior card in the “incentive” column. Random rewards will be awarded.

3. Whole Class Behavior Rewards: Whenever our class receives a compliment from another teacher, staff or community member, we will earn a puzzle piece. When our “Poppin’ with Good Behavior” puzzle is complete, the class will receive a special surprise reward.

4. BEHAVIOR CARD: Your child will receive a behavior card to be signed every THURSDAY night. It should be brought back to school on Fridays. The behavior card is a way to document both poor choices and positive behavior throughout the week. (see Agenda Book pgs. 7&8) It looks & works like this:

Whole Class Behavior Rewards: Whenever our class receives a compliment from another teacher, staff or community member, we will earn a puzzle piece. When our “Poppin’ with Good Behavior” puzzle is complete, the class will receive a special surprise reward.

If you have questions at any time, please feel free to contact me by phone, a written note in the agenda, or email. I will make every effort to return your call or email within a timely manner once I am not with the children.

I look forward to a wonderful year with your superstar children!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cervone
(813)744-8154
stacy.cervone@sdhc.k12.fl.us

I have read Mrs. Cervone's Class Handbook and have reviewed the information with my child. I will contact Mrs. Cervone anytime I have a question, comment or concern.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____