



# A Snapshot of Ms. Pete's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Policies & Procedures

## How Our Class Runs

### Behavior Management

The main tool that we use to manage classroom behaviors and encourage responsibility is Class Dojo. Class Dojo is an online tracking system that allows students to remain accountable for their positive and negative behaviors. Points can be earned, taken away, and "cashed in" for rewards. Parents will be sent an email to gain access to Class Dojo from the comfort of home.

### House System

Our classroom operates on a House system inspired by the Ron Clark Academy. On the first full week of school, students will pick their "house". The four houses are kindness, grit, integrity, and respect. These character traits are the pillars of our classroom. The students will stay in their houses for the year and "compete" with each other for rewards and bragging rights.

### Essential Agreements- Inspired by the houses

1. Have and show manners to our school, classroom, adults, and peers. (respect)
2. Be a problem solver in order to seek a solution (grit)
3. Do the right thing, even if no one is watching (integrity)
4. Be kind to others, even when it's hard. (kindness)

### Birthdays

Due to PTA policy, celebrating birthdays with sweet treats is highly discouraged. To honor your child's birthday, students will be given 4 dojo points and one day of extra recess for the class at the beginning of their birthday month. Also, please do not send in birthday party invitations to the classroom, unless there is an invitation for every student. This will help reduce the amount of tears and hurt feelings that may happen if a student does not receive an invitation.



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## What We Are Learning

### Reading

Reading comprehension is a major focus in our curriculum. Throughout the year we will be learning strategies to assist us in higher order reading skills. We will learn these skills through novel studies, stations, and most importantly independent reading. Students will be expected to read at least 20 chapter books this year (5 a quarter) in their reading zone, determined by beginning of the year test scores, and complete a reading response for each.

### Math

Fourth grade introduces a lot of complex mathematic skills. We will use the EngageNY Math Curriculum, and students will be taught this curriculum through differentiated small group instruction. Math quizzes and tests will be given as students complete the units. Students will be given ample notice before each assessments.

### ELA

During ELA, our class will be co-taught with myself and Mr. Human. Through different teaching strategies, students will study the following concepts:

- Greek and Latin Roots- Every two weeks, we will focus on a new set of Greek and Latin word roots. Students will learn the origin of the selected words as well as how their parts help us understand the word meaning. At the end of each unit, students will be assessed on the word meaning, as well as its spelling.
- Writing- We will be writing in a variety of genres this year. Students will write and analyze narrative, persuasive, opinion, and informational pieces. The goal is for students to complete 4 writing pieces each quarter.

### Science/Social Studies

Science and Social Studies are HUGE components of our curriculum. Because of the large amount of information students are expected to know for the Milestones, our goal is to integrate science and social studies standards in our reading and ELA Block as well. Students will be given study guides prior to all assessments.



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## Outside the Classroom

### Homework

Homework will be assigned daily Monday through Thursday and should last approximately 60 minutes. Typical homework will be about 2-4 assignments each night. Anything assigned for homework is something that has already been taught in class. Please let me know if your child is struggling or needs a lot of extra help to get his or her assignments completed. Students will record all homework in their agendas. If a homework assignment is not turned in on time, students must complete their homework during school or at home, take a 3 point deduction every day their homework is late, and lose 2 DOJO points. Sometimes there are extenuating circumstances that prevent children from being able to complete their assignments. Because of this, if a parent writes a note for their child to turn in in-lieu of the required assignment, then the student will be allowed to complete and turn in the assignment the following day (without penalty). **This will not be allowed more than twice every quarter.**

### Parent Communication

Communication is a key ingredient in a successful classroom. To stay informed about our classroom please look for the following:

- Monthly newsletter and calendar- will be located in your child's Personal Organizer and on our class website.
- Graded Papers Folder- will be sent home weekly. A form detailing their grades and conduct will be included in the folder. This form must be signed and returned the following day.
- Class Website- [mspetesclass.weebly.com](http://mspetesclass.weebly.com)

If you have any questions or concerns, that are not addressed in the above locations, please do not hesitate to contact me. Email is really the best way to get a hold of me.

### Conferences

I will hold beginning of the year conferences after Curriculum Night for every student. After that, conferences will be held as needed.