



Dear Parents,

Summer, 2019

Welcome to Fourth Grade! Fourth grade is a year in which students share many positive learning experiences as they become more independent and take on additional responsibilities. I am looking forward to having your child in my class this year and partnering with you to make this a great year. I know this year will be one of learning, growth, friendship building and discovery, and I can't wait to get started!

As a brief introduction, I am returning for a second year of teaching fourth grade at Seneca Academy. Prior to that, I taught upper elementary and middle school at both Maret School in Washington, DC and Kent Denver School, in Denver, CO. In addition, last May I received my M. Ed. with a specialization in reading from Johns Hopkins University; I also hold a Master of Arts in Teaching from Brown University as well as a B.A. from Carleton College. I was drawn to Seneca's inquiry-based approach and focus on student engagement, and I am eager to work with your child to delve deeply into the topics we will cover this year.

I look forward to meeting you and your child at our Meet and Greet and first day of school on **Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please park (there will be parking in the St. Nicholas Episcopal Church lot) and bring your child to the classroom at 9:00 am. We will have a variety of parent and child activities through the morning and then will have a bring-your-own bag lunch picnic together in the backyard. We will end right at noon. During this morning together, you will receive information about carpool, volunteer opportunities, Parent Association activities, and other information important to your child's year here. Please note that the school calendar is available on the website.

The first full day of school will be **Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**. Beginning on that day your child will need a snack that is quick to eat (such as a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, granola bar or cheese stick) and a lunch. We drink water for snack which is available from our in-class water fountain, but we highly recommend that students bring a reusable water bottle. Please do not send sodas or candy for snack or lunch.

The fourth grade supply list is available on the website under the Elementary tab: Back to School 19-20. Please bring these supplies to the Meet and Greet on August 27<sup>th</sup> in a bag with your child's name on it. In addition, your child will need the following **labeled** with his or her name:

Backpack  
(non-rolling preferred)

Lunch box

Art smock

Reusable water bottle  
(recommended)

For summer reading, students have a choice of two books: *Makoons* by Louise Erdrich or *Morning Girl*, by Michael Dorris. *Morning Girl* is also available as an audiobook, which would be a fine option for students. Of course, if your child would like to read both of these books, that would be great too! Our discussion of these books will lead into our first inquiry unit on Indigenous People. In addition to these books, please encourage your student to read all summer long!

There will be a Summer Social for all elementary students and their families on **Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** from 4:30-5:30 pm. I will not be there, but this is a great time to meet your friends!

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely,

*Cathy Lawler*