

**Mrs. Illies**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Classroom Handbook**  
**2017 - 2018**



## Table of Contents

Welcome to Fourth Grade	3
Meet the Teacher	4
Class Schedule	5
Content area info	6-8
On the Web	9
Classroom Policy Form	10
Behavior Plan	11
Homework	12
Birthdays/Box Tops	13



## Welcome to Fourth Grade!

I am excited about starting this new school year with you and your child! One of my main goals in my classroom is to teach students to be responsible and contribute to their society. I feel that modeling this and expecting this of my students creates a respectful and responsible classroom. In fourth grade we do a lot of project-based learning and integrating technology, I believe this hands-on approach creates a great learning environment for students. Another goal of mine is to get students excited about reading. I will do my best to learn each students interests and help them find something that they enjoy. In Math, I will extend their ability to problem solve at higher levels by teaching them effective problem-solving strategies.

I am looking forward to working with you this year. I would like to keep the lines of communication open in order to best benefit your child. I always welcome your input and support. You can reach me by phone (701-640-1834), e-mail ([erika.illies@k12.nd.us](mailto:erika.illies@k12.nd.us)), or by sending a note in your child's planner or homework folder.

Please take a few minutes to read through the following classroom information and policies.

Thanks,

Mrs. Illies



## Meet the Teacher

My name is Erika Illies. This is the beginning of my fourth year of teaching. I taught kindergarten for one year and have been teaching fourth grade in Wyndmere since 2015 and it sure feels like home. I am excited for my third year here!

I attended Bemidji State University and graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. I married my husband, Brad, and in May 2016 we had a baby boy named Owen Howard Illies May 2016. He is 15 months old and sure keeps us on our toes! In July we found out that we are having TWINS come November (SURPRISE!) They are identical boys. We live on a farmstead near Lidgerwood and have two dogs, Ruby and Lindy as well. I look forward to getting to know you and your child!



# Class Schedule

**School begins:** 8:25 a.m.

**School dismisses:** 3:25 p.m.

**Lunch:** 11:25-11:45

**Recess:** 12:00-12:25 a.m.

2:00-2:25 p.m.

## Specials

**Monday:** Library 9:20-9:50, Counselor

**Tuesday:** Music 9-9:30, Phy Ed 1:10-1:40

**Wednesday:** Music 9-9:30

**Thursday:** Phy Ed 1:10-1:40

**Friday:** Music 9-9:30, Phy Ed 1:10-1:40

Keyboarding in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 10:30-11 on Mondays and Wednesdays

\*Full Schedule is attached

# Focus Skills/Information

## Language Arts

- \* Apply skills and strategies to increase reading comprehension and thinking about reading on a deeper level
- \* Use text details from a variety of genres to explain thinking
- \* Fine tune grammar skills in order to become better writers
- \* Write for a variety of purposes and audiences

## Spelling

- \* Students will have whole-group, grade level spelling lists of high frequency words.
- \* Students will bring home a list of words in their folders on Monday. Each list has 20 basic words, 5 review words, and 5 challenge words. Students are to write the list two times. The list must be signed and returned by Friday/last day of school that week.
- \* Spelling pre-tests will be given on Wednesdays. Students who don't pass the pre-test will retake the test on Fridays. Spelling tests will include the twenty words they have studied and two review and two challenge words.

## Vocabulary

- \* Students will have whole-group, grade level vocabulary words for each week's story.
- \* Students will bring home a list of words in their folders on Monday. Each list has 10 words. The list must be signed and returned by Friday/last day of school that week.
- \* Vocabulary pre-tests will be given on Wednesdays. Students who don't pass the pre-test will retake the test on Fridays.

## Accelerated Reader

- \* Students will have individual quarterly AR goals to meet. These goals will be individualized based upon their reading level and fluency rate in STARR testing.
- Students who meet individual Accelerated Reader goals each quarter will receive their **50 Class Dojo Points and be invited to participate in a reward party at the end of the quarter.** There are no exceptions on this.
- There will also be book report projects that the students complete each quarter. These will be counted towards their reading grade.



## Focus Skills/Information

**Math** - We will be using Saxon Math this year. Students will have homework throughout the week.

Some of our key skills for this year:

- \* Apply problem solving strategies to a variety of mathematical situations
  - \* Recognize and demonstrate equivalent number representations (Ex: 438 = four hundred thirty-eight = 4 hundreds 3 tens 8 ones =  $400 + 30 + 8$  =  $500 - 62 = 146 \times 3$ , etc)
  - \* Demonstrate fluency with the relationships between multiplication and division facts up to  $12 \times 12$
  - \* Multiply up to 4-digit by 1-digit and 2-digit by 2-digit numbers
  - \* Divide up to 4-digit by 1-digit
  - \* Fractions: equivalent representations, add and subtract, multiply by whole numbers, and relate to decimals
  - \* Classify triangles, quadrilaterals, angles, and lines
  - \* Measure and draw angles
  - \* Find and draw lines of symmetry
  - \* Perimeter and area
- \* \* \* \* Upon mastery of fourth grade objectives, students will have the opportunity to practice and learn content above fourth grade level



## Science/Social Studies

### Science

We have a new curriculum called Inspire

- \* Energy and Motion
- \* Transfer of Energy
- \* Structures of Living Things
- \* Wave and Information Transfer
- \* Patterns of Earth's Changing Features
- \* Natural Hazards
- \* Energy from Natural Resources

### Social Studies

In 4<sup>th</sup> grade we study North Dakota Studies-

There will be several projects completed for the following curriculum:

- \*Geology, Geography and Climate
- \*American Indians of North Dakota
- \*Frontier Era of North Dakota
- \*Early Settlement of North Dakota
- \*North Dakota Citizenship
- \*North Dakota Agriculture

### Grading Scale

A+ 100%	B+ 92-93%	C+ 85-86%	D+ 78-79%
A 96-99%	B 89-91%	C 82- 84%	D 72-77%
A- 94-95%	B- 87-88%	C- 80-81%	D- 70-71%





# On the Web

## Class Website

You can find the class handbook, schedule, pictures, spelling and vocabulary word lists, class project information, and links to online games and activities that support the fourth grade curriculum. You can find our website on the elementary tab of our school website.

## Moby Max

We are implementing Moby Max again this school year. It is a web-based curriculum that is tailored to your child's individual needs, and I think you will be very impressed by how fast your child will excel while using Moby. Some features are:

- \*Placement test that accurately identify where your child excels, and where his or her "missing" skills are
- \*Targeted instruction to "fill in" those missing skills
- \*Systematic review sessions that ensure that your child retains 100% of what he or she has learned
- \*Students are rewarded with game time for the time they put in on lessons
- \*Moby Max can be accessed from home at any time

Moby Max is accessible at from the link on our school webpage at <http://wyndmere.schoolinsites.com>



## Classroom Policy Form

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On the following pages are the policies and procedures used for communication, discipline, homework, and other activities that will occur in the classroom. As you read about each policy, please check the boxes below so that we know you have been informed about our classroom procedures and return it to school.

Thank you,

Mrs. Illies



I have read and discussed the following classroom policies with my child.

Classroom Policies/Information

Discipline Policy

Homework Policy

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_



# Behavior Plan

## Classroom Expectations

**SAFE, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE**

## Reinforcements

1. LEARNING
2. Positive praise and encouragement
3. DoJo points

## Class Dojo

I will be giving out Class DoJo points to students for various actions throughout the school day. Students can earn them for good behavior, participation, kindness, academic progress and/or achievements etc. Each day points start back at zero and the students record their points at the end of each day. Students may use their points to cash in for different rewards on cash-in day which will be every Friday morning.

## Consequences (daily)

**Level 1-3pts lost-** Student loses 10 minutes of recess

**Level 2-6pts lost-** Student loses all recess and completes reflection sheet

**Level 3- More than 6pts lost-** Student loses both recess and contacts parent/guardian

**Anything further or severe disruption-** student will be sent to principal office.



# Homework Policy

## Homework Expectations

- Students are expected to produce **quality** work for **every assignment**, no exceptions. This means students will need to redo/revise any work that does not meet this requirement.
- \* Any assignments not completed in class are to be completed at home and returned to school the following day.
- \* Students should set aside time daily for independent reading, studying spelling words and vocabulary words. These do not have to take a long time. Just 10 to 15 minutes a day can significantly improve your child's academic performance.
- Students who are absent are responsible for asking about and making up any assignments missed

## Planners (school issued)

Assignments are written on the board daily. Students will write down all assignments/topics covered for the day. Please check your child's planner and homework folder each night.

## Consequences for Late/Missing Assignments

All homework is **due at the beginning of each day**, Otherwise it is considered late.

- \*\* Students will be held in at recess to complete late/missing work.
- \*\*\* Frequent late work will result in parent conference/contact.

If your child is doing more than an hour of homework each night, PLEASE contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss the concerns and propose some solutions.



## **Birthdays**

We are always happy to help celebrate your child's special day! You may send treats to school for your child's birthday if you wish. Summer birthday we celebrate on half birthday. We will have the treats at 2:25 on that day. I would like to have at least one day in advance to adjust my plans.

\*\*A classroom birthday list is attached.

## **Box Tops**

We will be collecting box tops this year. Please tear these off and send them to school if you buy the products that carry them. Please put them in an envelope as you save them.

