

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome! This is the start of my 31st year teaching in the Manitowoc Public School District. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from UW-Stevens Point, a master's degree in Educational Technology from Marion College, and I earned my National Boards for Professional Teachers in November 2011. We have two children: our oldest daughter works outside of Chicago as an Industrial Engineer. Our younger daughter lives here in town and is the Event Coordinator at Par 5 Resort. We also have a beloved Shitzu Poodle named Oliver.

Fourth grade will prove to be rewarding and challenging for you and your child. It is a big step towards independence. To help ensure that I meet your child's individual needs, I utilize a variety of teaching techniques such as: pretesting, flexible groups, book clubs, differentiated assignments and formative assessments. Curriculum compacting is implemented when needed.

During **Reading** I provide a daily "read to self" time to increase your child's reading stamina. Our goal is 30 minutes of uninterrupted reading. I will make sure your child is reading at a level that challenges, yet does not frustrate. We will work one-on-one focusing on fluency, expression, strategies, and comprehension. Narrative, informational, and persuasive **Writing** will be a focus throughout the year. During the hybrid model of teaching, reading will be taught for a full unit, and then we will switch to writing. This first quarter narrative reading and writing will be our focus.

Math focuses on computation skills, place value, multiplication and division strategies, fractions and decimals, and word problems. We have a brand new math program this year called Bridges. In the Google Classroom there will be many opportunities under the *Exploration and Practice* to review and practice the concepts and strategies taught in class. Bridges has done an amazing job of creating digital materials available to utilize at home. Check out the link on my classroom website.

Classroom rules are kept simple: "At all times demonstrate respect and responsibility to yourself, others and the environment". I use a Love and Logic approach for classroom management. This means I treat every student as a unique individual, and every situation as a unique situation. Fair is not always equal. Students know they have the power to make choices, but there are consequences to those choices.

I have a class **webpage** where you will find: noteworthy news, subject updates, a calendar of events, and several websites students may use to class to reinforce concepts. There is also a link to email me with questions or news I need to know. https://monroe.manitowocpublicschools.org/staff/pages/4th_grade/lora_lutz

If you need to contact me during the school day, please contact me via email. It is the easiest way to communicate with me. I check email four times during the school day. You can call and leave a voice mail message as well. I do not answer the phone while I am teaching.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lutz

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