

August 2019

Dear Fantastic Fourth Graders and Families,

Welcome to 4C!!! I am so excited to be your teacher and can't wait to meet you. We are going to have a fabulous school year together full of learning and new adventures!

Let me begin by telling you a bit about myself. My name is Miss Christina Chen and this will be my fifth year at Merion Elementary. Before landing in fourth grade, I taught third grade, first grade, and kindergarten. This summer, I was busy teaching first grade at SPIES, traveling near (New York) and far (California) to visit my family and friends, attending concerts, and finally decorating my first home! Some of my year-round pastimes include checking off places on my numerous restaurant bucket lists, staying healthy at Orangetheory Fitness, museums (I have memberships to the Museum of the American Revolution and Franklin Institute!), trivia and board games, hiking, and spending time with friends and family. Oh, and I absolutely LOVE treats, especially donuts! ☺

I have been working hard over the summer preparing engaging and meaningful activities for 4C. In addition to reading and math centers, we will be learning about Pennsylvania and its early history in Social Studies, as well as ecosystems, electricity, and the Solar System in Science. Fourth grade is also the year when you can learn a musical instrument, sing in the chorus, join various clubs, and participate in after-school sports. I cannot express how much I am looking forward to working with and getting to know you!

Families: In order to facilitate communication about classroom happenings and help create a community environment, please send me an email (chenc@lmsd.org) to be sure you are included in my class list. Please title this message **4C** followed by **your child's name**. Also, please answer the following questions in the body of your message:

- What are your child's strengths and interests, both in and out of school?
- In what areas does your child need/want to improve?
- What motivates your child?
- What frustrates your child?
- With whom does your child live (pets included!)?
- What are your hopes for your child's year in fourth grade?
- What are your child's hopes for fourth grade?

Students: To get ready for our first days together, please be ready to share:

- 1) a token from your summer (must fit in your backpack)
- 2) your favorite book
- 3) the importance of a *flexible* attitude and what that means to you

Lastly, I truly believe in teamwork and open lines of communication in order to help meet your child's needs. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. There are so many things to look forward to in fourth grade and I hope you are as ready as I am for a new school year to begin. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Love,
Miss Christina Chen
chenc@lmsd.org

Ps. I am collecting gently used games to add to 4C's indoor recess collection. I would GREATLY appreciate any age- and grade-appropriate board games, card games, and activities (i.e. coloring/activity books, manipulatives, etc.) that you are looking to donate. These can be brought in anytime during the school year. Thank you in advance! ☺

4C Recommended Supply List

When buying supplies through Staples, please select my name or enter my rewards number **3445726155 so that I can accumulate rewards for 4C! 😊*

- 1 gallon-sized Ziploc bag filled with the following supplies:
 - 24 (or more!) #2 pencils, sharpened
 - Erasers
 - 4+ dry erase markers
 - 1 old sock (used as an eraser)
 - Highlighters
 - Ballpoint pen, black ink
 - 3+ pads of 3x3 Post-it notes
- 1 gallon-sized Ziploc bag filled with the following supplies:
 - 1 pack of colored pencils
 - 24-pack of crayons
 - 1 pack of thin markers
 - 4+ glue sticks
 - Scissors
 - 3+ rolls of Scotch tape
- (1) 2-inch heavy duty 3-ring binder with clear front pocket
- (1) 3-ring pencil pouch (to go inside 2-inch binder)
- (1) ½-inch 3-ring binder
- (5) two-pocket solid color folders (**red, orange, yellow, green, blue**)
- (3) 1-subject spiral notebooks with detachable sheets (**red, yellow, blue**)
- 1 pack of wide ruled notebook paper
- 1 clipboard with your name on it
- Ruler with your name on it (to the ¼ inch and with centimeters)
- 1+ boxes of tissues for the classroom (lotion-free)
- Inexpensive laptop headphones (Dollar Store)
- Independent reading book (read daily in class and during dismissal)
- Nutritious snack(s) daily, beginning on the first day (nut-free, please!)
- Water bottle to keep in cubby
- (2) 2-liter clear bottles (straight, not curvy)

Introducing... YOUR Child

I'd like to know more about your child, through your eyes. The more I know, the better I can design an educational and motivational program to fit his or her particular needs.

Please answer the questions and complete the information below. Remember, this is from *your* point of view. Please send it in with your child as soon as it's completed.

PLEASE RETURN BY 9/6/19.

Thank you!

Child's Name _____ Homeroom: _____

- List five (5) words that best describe your child's *character* (competitive, cheerful, perfectionist):

- What *motivates* your child?

- What *upsets* your child?

– What are your child's out-of-school *interests* and *activities*?

– What activities do you *share*? What problems/successes do you have working/playing together?

