

Dear Families,

We are so excited to welcome you and your child to 4th grade at Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School! Fourth grade is a year filled with curiosity, growth, and meaningful learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom. From launching science experiments to planting daffodils in honor of Veterans Day, participating in flashlight reading, and enjoying books outdoors on beach towels—our students are encouraged to explore, question, and wonder every day.

One of the many highlights of the year is our Live Wax Museum project, where students research, write, and present as historical figures—bringing history to life for their peers and families. The fourth-grade team also led the school-wide literacy initiative READBowl, which inspired students across the school to read over 100,000 minutes. Fourth-grade students earned first place in their division for reading the most minutes! The energy continued with Reading March Madness, a bracket-style competition that kept motivation high and books flying off the shelves.

Our 4th grade teachers have cultivated a positive learning culture with programs like “8 to Celebrate,” which recognizes student achievement and builds community during testing season. This initiative has since been adopted schoolwide and has played an important role in improving student dispositions during assessments. Beyond the classroom, our 4th grade team is committed to ongoing professional growth and has continuously brought fresh and engaging instructional practices back to their students.

We are also thrilled to share that Ms. Quinn and Ms. Lemke were awarded a prestigious Fund for Teachers grant. This summer, they will travel to Iceland to explore glaciers, lagoons, and volcanoes—bringing back global learning experiences to enrich their classrooms. This recognition reflects their passion, creativity, and dedication to providing meaningful, real-world learning opportunities for their students.

Academics & Instructional Focus

At NHRMS, we emphasize joyful and rigorous instruction. We are deeply committed to developing strong literacy skills and promoting math fluency through developmentally appropriate and engaging strategies. Fourth grade is a time when students begin to think more independently and make meaningful connections across content areas through hands-on, project-based learning.

Communication & Parent Partnerships

We believe student success is rooted in strong home-school communication. Families receive report cards that include both academic progress and the three As. Teachers also provide ongoing communication throughout the year—via conferences, email, and timely updates. As a school,

we dedicate one hour during professional development days to proactively reach out to families and support continued collaboration.

Each Friday, you will receive a School Snapshot, which offers a holistic view of learning across all grade levels. In addition, 4th grade teachers send classroom updates and frequently share learning highlights and photos on Instagram, helping you stay connected to your child's day-to-day experiences.

Student Expectations & Support

At NHRMS, we strive to create a school environment where every student feels safe, supported, and valued. We use restorative practices to guide students in reflecting, repairing, and learning from mistakes. When necessary, accountability measures such as lunch workshops, in-school suspension (ISS), or out-of-school suspension (OSS) may be used depending on the situation—but our ultimate goal is always to foster growth and repair relationships.

Arrival & Dismissal Procedures

Morning Drop-Off: 4th and 5th grade students will be dropped off at the main entrance and proceed directly to the cafeteria.

Afternoon Pick-Up: Procedures will remain the same as last year.





We are honored to partner with you in your child's learning journey. At Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School, every student has a place, every voice matters, and every day brings opportunities for discovery, kindness, and growth. We cannot wait to begin this exciting year together!

Thank you!