

# WELCOME TO 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE!



It is an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to work with you this upcoming year! I graduated from the State University of New York at Brockport with a bachelors in Elementary and Special Education. I then continued my education at Nazareth College where I received my masters degree in Educational Technology. This will be my seventh year at Brassfield teaching fourth grade.

A few things will be different for you as well as your child this year but will help to challenge them as an individual and a student:

- Our schedule is very rigorous and you may notice an increase in responsibility. You will also notice that we assess in both science and SS in order to prepare their study skills for next years 5th grade science EOG.
- Just like in 3rd grade, 4th is using the EL program to support their reading and writing.
- Multiplication and long division are a huge part of our curriculum, please make sure your child knows their facts 1-12.
- I do not have required homework as studies show that it does not improve their skills in the elementary grades. However, I do implement an optional book challenge and have many math resources on my website.
- I use technology very often in my room and will very frequently post to my twitter and instagram to show your children learning and having fun at school! I will be sending home a copy of the photo and video release form if you have not previously signed it. We as a school want to remind you, our photo release gives us the ability to photograph your child for school purposes. The students really enjoy seeing themselves and being able to show you what they are doing in school!
- BYOD: if your child has their own device they may bring tablets or laptops to class, cell phones are allowed in school but I do not allow the students to use them for work because a large majority of our technology use involves typing and they are just not conducive for this purpose. If you are interested in BYOD, a chromebook is the best option for 4th grade!
- I have a flexible seating classroom! This means there are no desks; instead we have some tables that help to promote collaboration. I also have many other furniture options that have shown to be very helpful for students that have busy bodies!

Moving forward, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade team is working diligently to design instruction that promotes technology and provides differentiated opportunities for all students to grow as learners at their own pace. I look forward to a terrific year at Brassfield! (Please see the picture links for my wishlist and website.)

Sincerely,

Mcghan Gressick

