

# Before we get started...

- No hand-outs this year. We're going green! All information is on our class website!
- Please remember to sign up for a parent/teacher conference time. The schedule is on the Chromebooks at the back of the room. PLEASE be careful not to erase other families' times!
- Have you completed the two parent surveys I posted online? If not, please be sure to do so. You can even do it on your phone! [www.mossteaches.us](http://www.mossteaches.us)
- I'm looking for a volunteer to teach JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT. See me if you're interested!
- Follow me on Twitter! @mossteaches
- Please consider signing up to volunteer in the library! See Ms. Kelleher at the main entrance!
- Please visit [pgspto.com](http://pgspto.com) to learn about other volunteer opportunities within our school (including room parents roles).
- The PTO has left a directory page at your child's seat. Please make any corrections and **LEAVE THE FORM AT YOUR CHILD'S SEAT** for me.
- Have you actually read all this? Thanks so much! YOU'RE AWESOME!

# Welcome to Fourth Grade

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[www.mossteaches.us](http://www.mossteaches.us)

Would someone please wave  
your hands when it's 8:00 so I  
know I have only 10 minutes  
left?

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Thank you!

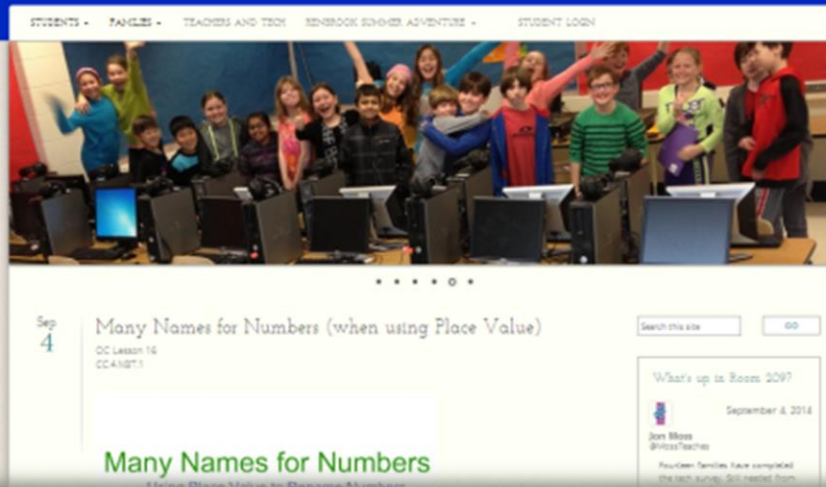




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Pardon me...

# MOSS TEACHES



There's a lot of information on our class website!

I'm focusing on information that isn't as easily available.



# What's new at PGS this year?

- Targeted Instruction
  - Similar to the SRBI blocks from years past.
  - Working toward a model in which students will visit a classroom for targeted instruction, focusing on that student's needs.
  - Ongoing changes to what we're offering during TI blocks in order to fit current instruction and student needs.
- Library Model
  - Please welcome our new library-media specialist, Ms. Caitlin Kelleher! Our library-media model has changed this year.
    - Ms. Kelleher will be pushing into our grade DAILY to support targeted instruction. She'll be working much more closely with our team.
    - Increased focus on technology integration.
    - Kids will have monthly check out. (More books at a time!)
    - New leveled library collection! We can match books with readers!

# Core Instruction: Language Arts

- Instructional Methods
  - Whole Class instruction
  - Guided Reading / Strategy Groups
  - Readers' Workshop
  - CCLS – Cross Curricular Learning Stations
- Evaluations
  - DRA - Developmental Reading Assessment
  - DRP – Degrees of Reading Power
  - Universal Assessments
  - Informal Assessments
  - Teacher-generated Assessments

# Core Instruction: Language Arts

- Major focus area: Short Answer Responses
  - Critical responses to text
  - Analysis
  - Forming and explaining connections to text
  - Use of Google Classroom and Google Docs – Check students' Google Classroom accounts on a periodic basis.
- What's different from third grade?
  - Much less reliance on anthology
  - Increased work with literature
  - More non-fiction work
- Spelling
  - Based on a thematic list of words that come from the week's instruction. Some may be easier, while others will be more challenging.



# Core Instruction: Language Arts

- Writing instruction
  - Much greater focus on expository writing and citing information.
  - ~~Writing rubrics are available online (along with other rubrics),~~ but be on the lookout for updates.
  - Look for “writable moments” to help children to practice skills.

# Core Instruction: Mathematics

Our math instruction addresses the Common Core State Standards for Gr. 4, with emphasis on fractions, geometry/angles, and multiplication/division!

## **Operations and Algebraic Thinking**

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns.

## **Number and Operations in Base Ten**

- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.

## **Number and Operations—Fractions**

- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

## **Measurement and Data**

- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles.

## **Geometry**

- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

# Core Instruction: Mathematics

There is also intense focus on mathematical practices:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.



# Core Instruction: Mathematics

- We primarily use OnCore math for many core lessons, supplemented by Everyday Math resources, Singapore Math tools, Engage NY and various online resources.
  - So, the format of homework will periodically shift as we transition between instructional resources.
- Look for lots of real-world connections, when possible. (Anyone buying an iPhone7?)
- Students MUST master multiplication facts. XtraMath will be a tool for practice and assessment.
- Math also uses Universal Assessments to supplement unit assessments.

# Core Instruction: Science

- Three units of study:
  - Earth, Moon, and Sun
  - Water Cycle and Food Chains
  - Electrical Science
- Will probably be taught in two week units.
- Normally one unit per trimester.
  
- Stay tuned for exciting updates to our science curriculum this spring!

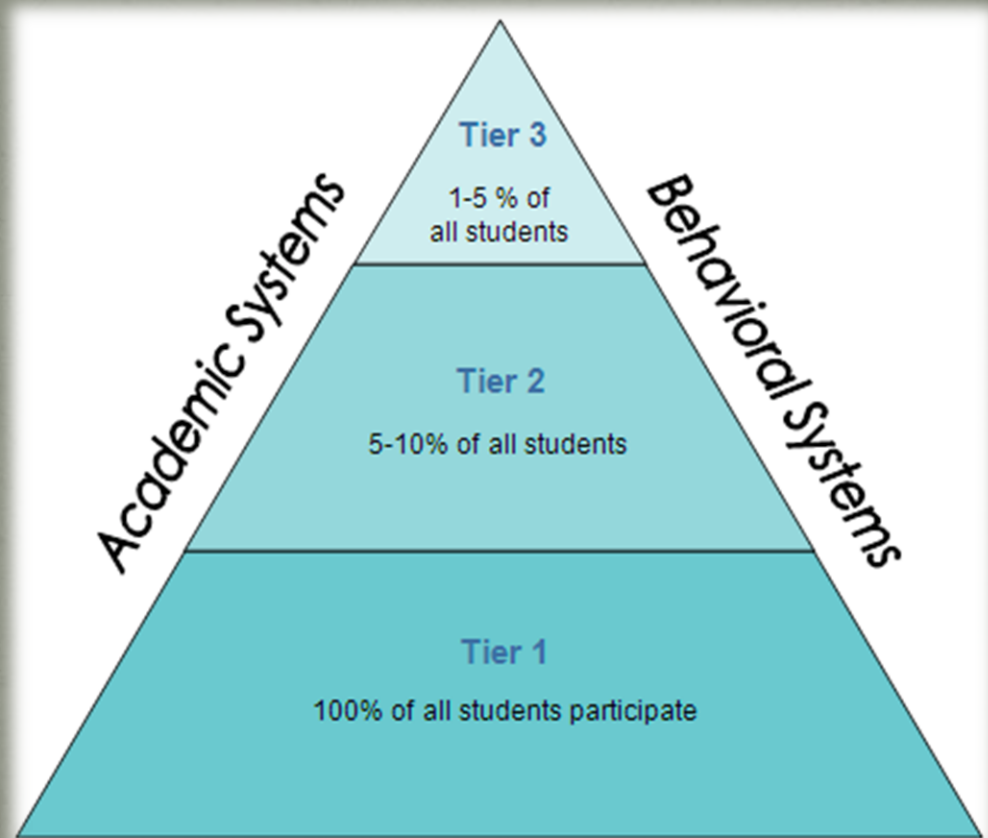
# Core Instruction: Social Studies

- Map Skills
- U.S. Regions (new program from Harcourt)
- States and capitals (often included with the week's spelling list)
- Social Studies CCLS
- Integrated into reading, particularly with the new shift toward non-fiction texts
- Students will build their research skills as they study each of the different regions.



# How we help your child

- All supports are based on assessment data, teacher observations, etc.
- Scientific Research-Based Intervention model
  - Tier 1 is provided in class.
  - Tier 2 is provided both in the classroom and as a pull-out model.
  - Tier 3 is typically a pull-out model.



# Educational Technology

- Flipped instruction
- SMART Board
- Document Camera
- Chromebooks
- Google Apps for Education (Classroom, Docs, and Email)
- Class website – [mossteaches.us](http://mossteaches.us) (get it?)
  - Schedule
  - Policies
  - Curriculum information (on district website)
  - Parent resources, rubrics
  - What else do YOU want to have on our website?
- ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS

# Classroom Climate

- **Capturing Kids' Hearts**
- **Social contract**
- Wellness (FINGERS CROSSED!)
- Start each day with morning meeting
- Points for team achievements
- Chance tickets for individual successes
- Logical consequences



# Homework and Projects

- An average night...
  - 30-45 minutes of nightly homework
  - 30-40 minutes of reading
  - Math fact practice
  - Nightly spelling practice
  - Will FREQUENTLY include technology-based homework
- Homework is intended to reinforce daily activities or to set the stage for an upcoming lesson.
- Parents should set limits for homework.
- Late policy
- Help is acceptable
- Long-term projects can take many forms!

# Communication

- Email is always preferred!
- Emergency paging is also possible
  - [emergency@edvantaged.com](mailto:emergency@edvantaged.com) FOR NOW
  - Standard texting limit – include phone number, name, situation.
- Lots and lots and lots and lots of information on our class website during the year.
  - I will send notifications of updates, but I need your email address.
  - The website is always changing!
- Follow our class on Twitter @MossTeaches
  - Big updates on the class website, smaller updates on Twitter.
  - What's the best way to get me to Tweet?
- Information survey on website – please share plenty of information!

Are you still awake?

Any questions? Thanks for  
coming!

**REMEMBER:** Sign up for a  
parent conference!

