

Welcome to 4th Grade!

Mr. Oliver

Room 213

Dear 4th Grade Families,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! My name is Andy Oliver, your child's teacher for Fourth Grade. This will be my fifteenth year of teaching, and my fifth year at McCall. Your child will engage in many new and exciting things this in fourth grade. We will continue to utilize the sensational Wonders Literacy program to implement the rigorous common core standards. My mission is to provide high-quality instruction so that your child can grow intellectually and socially, acquiring the skills necessary to move up to Fifth Grade. I have high expectations for myself as a teacher, and for the students in my classroom. I promise to work hard for your child, but I cannot do this job alone. We need the support and involvement of parents and families in order to ensure the maximum achievement of our children.

The following pages should be considered a "handbook" for the school year. Please take some time to go over these policies and procedures (more information will given at Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 18th). As usual, there are many forms for parents to fill out and return. Please return all and bring all school supplies by Friday, September 12. I am very excited to start the year and look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,
Mr. Andrew Oliver
4th Grade Teacher
McCall School
aoliver.teacher.mccall@gmail.com
215-351-7350

Assessment Folders

All tests, quizzes, and other graded assignments will be sent home periodically in an assessment folder. Each item in the folder should be signed or initialed by a parent and returned to Mr. Oliver the following school day. These collected assessments will be returned at report card conferences.

Attendance

An excuse note or emailed note is expected after a student is absent. Homework will be due upon return.

Behavior and Work Expectations

Room 213 Expectations

1. *Raise your hand for permission to talk or get up from your seat.*
2. *Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.*
3. *Follow directions the first time they are given.*
4. *Be honest.*
5. *Treat everyone with respect.*
6. *Persevere through challenging work.*
7. *Be a responsible learner.*

Consequences

First Warning: Verbal Warning

Second Warning: Loss of Privilege

Third Warning: Parent Contact

Box Tops



McCall Home and School Association collects Box Tops for Education to raise money for our school. All the classes at McCall participate in a competition to see who can collect the most box tops. Please support McCall by collecting box tops at home and consider asking to friends and relatives to participate as well.

Breakfast

Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria from 8:00 to 8:20 each morning. If your child is participating in breakfast, please remind them to be in line in the yard when the bell rings at 8:25am.

Class work

Class work that is not completed at school will be assigned to be finished at home. This includes work that is missed during instrumental lessons, MG, or other activities that cause a student to miss class time. Class work for the day will be listed on a weekly homework sheet and updated on the Google drive document.

Contact Mr. Oliver

The easiest way to contact me is via email at aoliver.teacher.mccall@gmail.com. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. You may also call the McCall office at 215-351-7350 and leave a message.

Google Drive

I often use Google Drive as an important means of communicating with parents and sharing documents. I keep an updated “real time” homework assignment document where parents and students can check for updated homework and classwork. Assignments can be turned in and other resources can be “shared” with this great tool. We will also schedule report card conferences and use Google Drive for other sign-up lists. Please email me at aoliver.teacher.mccall@gmail.com to connect through Google drive.

Coupons and Cash-In

Students will receive coupons as an incentive for class participation, effort, helping out in the classroom, and following classroom rules. On most Fridays, students will have the opportunity to purchase items and snacks during “cash-in.” Families can support our classroom by donating items to be sold at cash-in. Many prizes can be found on the Amazon Wish List for room 213 (see below).

Daily Schedule

All students are expected to line up in the schoolyard at 8:25 each morning. Students will be dismissed at 3:09pm from the doors on the 7th Street side of the building. Our lunch and recess period will be from 12:45-1:30.

Homework

Homework will be given Monday through Thursday nights and should be turned in at the beginning of the following school day. Homework will be given nightly. Occasionally, homework will be assigned over weekends. Incomplete homework is required to be finished during recess. Students will receive a homework grid on Mondays and are responsible to keep it updated throughout the week. The homework grid can also be viewed online as a Google Drive document and is always up-to-date. A constructed response will be due every Friday.

Medications

If your child has any medications that need to be administered during school hours, please send them to Nurse Benjamin to be kept in her office.

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic book orders will be sent home each month and students will have the opportunity to purchase books.

Snacks and Water

Students may bring in a small *healthy* snack each day. Water bottles may be kept on the student's desk during the school day. Students will be permitted to eat the snack between 10:30-11:15 on most days. There will be no sharing of snacks and students are responsible for cleaning up and throwing away trash. Please be sure that the snack is easy to clean up. The snack and water privilege may be taken away if it becomes a disruption.

Social Studies and Science

Students in room 213 will switch to room 218 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for Social Studies with Ms. Merlini. She will teach Social Studies all year for both classes while Mr. Oliver teaches Science to both classes.

Specials Schedule

A Week

Monday	Music 11:15-12:00
Tuesday	Technology 11:15-12:00
Wednesday	Literacy 11:15-12:00
Thursday	Phys Ed 9:30-10:15 Technology 12:00-12:45

B Week

Monday	Music 12:00-12:45
Tuesday	Technology 11:15-12:00
Wednesday	Music 11:15-12:00
Thursday	Phys Ed 9:30-10:15

Friday	Art 11:15-12:00
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Friday	Art 11:15-12:00
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Study Island

Study Island is a web-based program that gives students rigorous practice in all of the skills included in the PSSA test. Students will be required to complete Student Island assignments weekly on a Monday-through-Sunday schedule. Students will have the opportunity to work on these assignments at school, but they may also complete them at home.

Tests and Quizzes

On a typical week, students will take several assessments to measure their understanding of our content. This is an approximate weekly schedule for regular literacy assessments:

Mondays – None

Tuesdays – Vocabulary Quiz (8 words and meanings)

Wednesdays - Grammar Quiz

Thursdays – Comprehension Quiz

Fridays – *Weekly Skills Assessments*

*Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing assessments will occur often, but not in as much of a weekly routine as reading and grammar.

Uniforms & Dress Code

It is the School District of Philadelphia's policy that all students wear a uniform to school. Students need to wear their uniform each day. Tops are to be white and bottoms are to be navy blue. Blue jeans are not allowed. Hooded sweatshirts may be worn as jackets to and from school, but may not be worn in class.

Volunteers

We are seeking parent, family, or community volunteers to help with tutoring our students on a regular basis throughout the school year (weekly, bi-weekly, etc.). Mr. Oliver will supply learning activities for each tutoring session. If you or anyone you know are willing to commit to tutoring this year, please let Mr. Oliver know. Nurse Benjamin is the volunteer coordinator for McCall and can provide information regarding the necessary clearance forms.

Wish List

An amazon.com wish list has been created for this classroom with additional school supplies and activities that would be great to have for the

school year. This list is titled “*McCall Room 213 Wish List – Mr. Oliver.*” A link can also be found on www.meetingmccall.com.

**Supply List
Room 213
Mr. Oliver**

For School

- \$13.00 for *Time for Kids* subscription and *Wonders* Practice Book
- Backpack
- Pencil box or pouch
- Scissors
- Box of Gallon- **or** Quart-Size Ziploc bags
- Highlighter pens
- Box of Pencils (mechanical pencils are fine)
- Handheld Pencil sharpener
- Box of crayons or colored pencils
- Red pens
- Pack of Expo dry erase markers (fine tip)
- 3 glue sticks (not bottles)
- 2 boxes of tissues
- 1 cylindrical container of sanitizing wipes
- 2 Reams of copy paper
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- 3 Composition Notebooks
(Labeled *Copybook #1*, *Copybook #2*, and *Social Studies Notebook*)
- 7 Folders
 - o Homework Folder
 - o Language Arts Folder
 - o Math Folder
 - o Writing Folder
 - o Science Folder
 - o Social Studies Folder
 - o Assessment Folder

Suggested for Home:

- 1 additional box of pencils
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus
- A set of Multiplication/Division Fact Flash Cards
- Computer or tablet with internet access. (Owning a computer is not required, but it would be *extremely helpful* to fully participate in educational activities next year.)

Please bring in supplies by Friday, September 12.