Teacher’s Name: Kelsey Schultz
Grade Level: 4th
Subject: Reading
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Goal:
The goal of fourth grade reading is to increase students’ skills in decoding, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing.

Course Overview:
In reading this year, students will be reading extensive and varied reading selections. Students will gain background knowledge before reading stories relating to those topics. Students will also work on reading fluency, vocabulary, literary analysis and writing.

Students will have daily vocabulary at the beginning of each lesson. During the reading section students will participate in read-alouds, partner reads, and answering comprehension questions. After reading, students will answer workbook questions that include comprehension, vocabulary, making outlines, interpreting maps, and making timelines. In their textbooks, students will answer more detailed comprehension questions and complete a daily writing activity. After students complete all their reading work that corresponds to their textbook, students will be working in centers. These centers will have Common Core work and reading extension activities.

Students will also be working on the following skills:
- Character traits
- Sequencing
- Fact vs. Fiction
- Using Evidence
- Comparisons & Contradictions
- Main Idea
- Setting
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Exaggeration
- Outlining & Summarization
- Classification
- Relevant & Inferential Information
- Context Clues
- Recalling Details
- Figurative Language
- Drawing Conclusions

Supplies:
Students need their reading textbook, this will be sent home every evening and return to school the next day. Students will also have two reading folders that will stay in the classroom. Students should also be bringing their homework folder and agenda to class every day.
**Classroom Rules:**
1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe

**Student Behavior and Consequences:**
In addition to the classroom rules, students will be expected to follow the Hampstead Hill Academy School wide Expectations. These expectations are in place to ensure that all students are in a safe environment at all times.

**Grading Policy:**
In Reading, students will be assessed using the following grading scale:

Tests: 40%
Tests are usually given every two weeks, after 10 lessons are completed to mastery. Mastery on tests is 90% or higher.

Checkouts: 20%
Checkouts are usually given every two weeks, after the 10 lessons are completed to mastery.

Classwork: 30%
Classwork will be assigned at the completion of each lesson. Classwork can include work in their workbook, their textbook and extra Reading assignments. Mastery on independent work is 85% or higher.

Homework: 10%
Homework will be assigned nightly Monday-Thursday and should take no more than 20 minutes. Typically, reading homework will consist of reviewing the lesson we read earlier in class and answering a reading skills worksheet. Homework should be written down in students’ agendas daily.

**Homework:**
Each night of the week students are to reread that days’ lesson. Students will have reading homework worksheets that will reinforce their reading skills.

**Extra-Credit Work:**
There is no extra-credit work assigned. Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

**Make-up/Missing Work:**
If a student is absent it is their responsibility to make sure their missing work is made up. If they want to come before or after school to make the work up, that can be arranged. Students need to make sure that their work is completed at least one week after being absent.

**Coach Class:**
Coach class will be conducted on every Tuesday from 2:45-3:30.

**Late Policy:**
Homework that is turned in late will receive half credit. Homework is factored into the student effort grade.
**Portfolios:**
Portfolios will be used to show reading extensions that have been completed. We will be working with Mrs. Guitian to do extra projects in reading that will be included in our portfolios.

**Projects:**
There are two major grade level projects in which students are expected to participate. The first project, is to be assigned and completed in the fall. The other project, the HHA Science Fair Project, will be due in the spring. Expectations for the project will be released eight to ten weeks prior to the project due date.

**Field Trips:**
We will be taking many field trips throughout the year. Permission slips and trip details will go out at least two weeks prior to class field trips.

**Parent Portal:**
Parents can access the parent portal to view student classwork and tests. The gradebook is updated daily.

**Teacher Bio:**
Ms. Schultz grew up in Baltimore and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and her Masters of Education from Johns Hopkins University. After completing her undergraduate degree, Ms. Schultz joined Teach For America and taught second grade in Baltimore. Ms. Schultz could not be more excited to be part of the HHA community and to be teaching fourth grade reading this year!
School Year 2017-2018
Class Syllabus

Goals:
- The goal of the third grade language program is for students to be able to produce clear and concise writing that allows the reader to comprehend the student’s purpose and thought process.
- The goal of the third grade social studies program is to introduce students to the concept of citizenship—both in their country and in their communities.
- The goal of the third grade science program is to introduce students to life science, earth science and physical science in an effort to prepare them for the sciences that they will encounter in the upper grades.

Language Overview: To be taught all 4 quarters

Grade 3 Signature Language Arts
This program provides an extended introduction to writing by emphasizing clarity in writing and basic mechanical rules. The program is designed to teach students that writing is a process by which you write first and then edit. By the end of third grade, students will be able to look at writing as a process that gives the reader a clear picture of what the writer is trying to convey.

Social Studies Overview: To be taught quarters 1 & 2

Baltimore City Public Schools Social Studies Program
This program introduces students to their place within history. Students will learn where they are geographically located in the world, the significance of their state and city, and their responsibilities and rights as citizens of the United States of America, the world, and their community.

Science Overview: To be taught quarters 3 & 4

FOSS
This program serves as an introduction to life science, earth science and physical science at the third grade level. Students will learn about scientific concepts and procedures via inquiry-based instruction, engineering projects, labs and demonstrations. Specifically, students will engage in investigations, during which time they will record their findings, read texts and complete assessments that monitor their progress.

Supplies:
Students are expected to bring all necessary materials to class to ensure that they are prepared to learn. In language, social studies, and science, students need to have the following every day:
- Homework folder
- HHA agenda

Classroom Rules:
1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe
5. Be yourself
**Student Behavior and Consequences:**
All students are expected to follow Hampstead Hill Academy’s school-wide expectations, which state that students are to be respectful, responsible, safe, caring, and friendly. Consequences of not meeting expectations will result in the following:

- Two verbal warnings
- Think Time (a reflection paper will be completed by the student and sent home for a parent to review and sign. If a think time paper is not signed and returned, the parent or guardian will be contacted, and the student will receive a lunch detention. However, students who choose to improve their behavior before the end of the class period may not have their think time papers sent home—this decision will be made at the discretion of the teacher.)
- After school detention (parents will be notified by phone before 2 p.m. if a detention needs to be served that day)
- Office referral

**Grading Policy:**

**Language Grading Policy**
- 60% Assessments
  - Please note that 90% and above is considered a passing grade.
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

**Social Studies Grading Policy**
- 60% Assessments
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

**Science Grading Policy**
- 60% Assessments
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

**Homework:** Regular homework will be assigned four times per week, Monday—Thursday. Homework will always require students to apply a skill set that they have previously learned, practiced in class and which will be assessed in the near future. Homework is graded for completion; students will be deducted one point for their homework grade each week for missing assignments.

**Extra-Credit Work:**
There is no extra-credit work assigned. Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

**Make-up/Missing Work:**
Make-up work can be completed upon the student’s return. Students will have as many days to complete the missing work as days they were absent.

**Coach Class:**
Coach Class will be held before school on Thursdays from 7:30AM – 8:00AM. This will be a time for the teacher to meet with students who need additional assistance and support with material learned in class or with homework. All students are welcome to attend coach class.
**Late Policy:**
Students are expected to complete all homework assignments the night the homework was assigned and handed out, unless otherwise specified. All homework handed in one day late will receive ½ credit. All homework handed in more than one day late will not receive credit.

**Course Overview:**
Signature Language Arts, Grade 3
- Sentence Analysis
- Mechanics
- Editing
- Reporting
- Inferring
- Clarity
- Expanded Writing Process

Language classwork typically consists of a workbook assignment and a written textbook assignment. Students will receive a classwork grade for all paragraph assignments. Participation will be factored into the student effort grade. Language tests are administered every ten lessons, roughly every three to four weeks. All graded tests and writing assignments will be sent home for parents to review. Parents can also check Infinite Campus and/or email me if grades are a concern.

**BCPSS Social Studies: Unit Topics**
- The Face of American Cities
- How Cities Began and How They Grew
- How Cities Govern
- Baltimore City at Work

Social studies classwork will take the form of worksheets, graphic organizers, station activities, study review games, notes and exit slips. Outside of class, students may be assigned projects, test prep and worksheets to help them better understand the concepts taught and practiced during class. Participation will be factored into the effort grade. Quizzes will be administered after completing each chapter of a unit. Once graded, all assessments will be sent home. Parents can also check Infinite Campus or email me with any grade concerns.

**FOSS Science: Unit Topics**
- Motion and Matter
- Water and Climate
- Structures of Life

Science will consist of classwork, tests and sometimes homework in the form of projects, papers and test/quiz prep. Classwork, comprised of graphic organizers, white board games, lab reports, research papers and exit slips, will be assigned on a daily basis. Participation will be factored into the effort grade. Science homework will be assigned on an as needed basis. Homework in the form of a study guide, flash cards or another type of review will always be assigned before a unit test or chapter quiz. Tests will be administered after completing each chapter of a unit. All tests will be sent home. Parents can also check Infinite Campus or email me with any grade concerns.
**Portfolios:**
Students will each maintain a portfolio of their work in the classroom. One piece of work from each class will be submitted into this portfolio each quarter. Families are welcome to view this portfolio during classroom visits or conferences.

**Field Trips:**
1. Science Center
2. Walters Art Museum
3. TBD

**Parent Portal:**
Parents can access the parent portal to view student classwork, tests and homework grades. In addition, tests and most classwork will be sent home for parents to review. Parents can also check Infinite Campus to view their child’s progress. The gradebook is updated daily.

**Teacher Bio:**
Ms. Kaplan started teaching at Hampstead Hill Academy in 2016. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a B.A. in Spanish and then earned a Masters in Teaching from Johns Hopkins University, with a focus on elementary education. She is originally from Pennsylvania, but has lived in Baltimore for almost 10 years.
Kirby Costello  
4th Grade Language/Social Studies/Science  
Email: kacostello@bcps.k12.md.us

**Goals:**

**Language:** The goal of fourth grade language is to teach the basic writing skills and develop the necessary vocabulary in order for students to understand the writing process and for students to produce writing that covers various writing topics. Examples of such topics include, but are not limited to, claims and arguments, clear directions, descriptions, and problem solving. The goal for fourth grade Language is for all students to complete the assigned Reasoning and Writing Program level or the Expressive Writing 2 Program level. Students will work through each lesson in order to reach mastery. Handwriting will also be heavily enforced for classwork and homework.

**Social Studies:** The goal for fourth grade Social Studies is to introduce students to a curriculum that captures Maryland’s unique history. Through this curriculum, we encourage and support students to come to the realization that they have power via their political actions. We hope that the daily lessons will help students to realize that their histories, experiences and voices are meaningful and can help shape policy.

**Science:** The goal in fourth grade Science is to challenge students to think like Scientists. Therefore, they are introduced to the Scientific Method and they will use this method of observation and problem solving while covering Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. The goal of Life Science is to introduce students to living things that inhabit our earth. The goal of Earth Science is for students to understand Earth and its resources. Students will be able to make the connection that the living organisms covered in Life Science use Earth and all of its resources. Earth Science will then be followed by Physical Science, with a focus on matter and energy. Students will be able to make the connection that Earth is made up of matter. Our class will be able to use their skilled inquiry to brainstorm ways that Science can help to better our community, our state, and our world.

**Course Overview:**

**Language, Reasoning and Writing, Level D Tracks**
- Parts of Speech and Sentence Clarity Analysis
- Clarity
- Sentence Types
- Inaccurate and Unclear Directions
- Misleading and Inaccurate Claims
- Arguments
- Passage Writing
Language, Reasoning and Writing, Level E Tracks
- Retell
- Parallel Construction
- Parts of Speech and Sentence Analysis
- General/Specific Clarity
- Vocabulary
- Descriptions
- Deductions
- Misleading and Inaccurate Claims

Language, Expressive Writing 2 Tracks
- Writing clearly
- Writing with a variety of sentences
- Writing what people say and paragraphing their conversations
- Editing for clarity, punctuation, paragraphs, and sentence types

Language classwork consists of work assigned in the textbook. Students will complete all classwork on looseleaf paper or a worksheet. Students will receive a daily classwork grade. Participation and homework will be factored into the student effort grade. Language tests are administered every ten lessons, about every two to three weeks. Parents can check Power Teacher Gradebook to view their child’s progress using the Parent Portal.

Maryland Social Studies:
- **Unit 1: Geography of the United States and Maryland**
  - This unit teaches students how to independently use their learning to understand how physical and human geography can inform responsible interactions with the environment.
- **Unit 2: Roots of the American People: Prehistory-1400**
  - This unit will teach students how to independently use their learning to apply concepts and systems of economics to participate productively in a global economy. Students will begin with learning about the economic systems used by Native Americans in the United States and Maryland.
- **Unit 3: Exploration: 1400-1586**
  - In this unit, students examine European Exploration of North America and compare the origin, destination, and goals of explorers from various nations. In addition, they will evaluate the interactions of Europeans and Native Americans and discuss how cultural traditions impact the point of view of those involved.
- **Unit 4: Colonies Take Root: 1587-1700**
  - In this unit, students learn about the establishment of early colonial settlements. Students will use the colonization of Maryland as a case study. That study focuses on; the explanation of European political, economic, and social philosophies and how they affected the political structure of the early American Colonies.

Maryland Science: Next Generation Science Standards/Maryland State Science Standards
- Energy module
- Soils, Rocks and Landforms module
- Environments module

Science will consist of classwork, quizzes, tests, and vocabulary work. Classwork will be completed using Science Interactive Journals. These journals will include all writing for labs, chapter notes, and extension
activities. Participation will be factored into the classwork grade. Quizzes will be administered at the end of the week or the end of the chapter. Quiz assessments will be focused on key vocabulary. Tests will be administered after completing a unit. All tests will be sent home. Parents can also check Power Teacher Gradebook to view their child’s progress.

**Supplies:** All supplies will be kept in your child's classroom.

**Classroom Rules:**
1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be friendly and caring
4. Be safe

**Student Behavior and Consequences:**
In addition to the classroom rules, students will be expected to follow the Hampstead Hill Academy School wide expectations. These expectations are in place to ensure that all students are in a safe environment at all times.

**Grading Policy:**
**Language Grading Policy**
- 60% Tests
- 30% Classwork
- 10% Homework

**Social Studies/Science Grading Policy**
- 60% Tests/Quizzes
- 30% Classwork/Labs
- 10% Homework/Projects

**Homework:** Homework for Language will be given Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and sometimes Thursdays. A weekly score of 4 points will be given if the student turns in all homework completed. Thursday homework will be used for any additional Language review or Social Studies/Science review.

**Extra-Credit Work:** Any extra-credit will be assigned in class through extension activities.

**Make-up/Missing Work:**
Make-up work can be completed upon the student’s return. Students will have as many days to complete the missing work as days they were absent. Students are responsible for getting their make-up work from the absent work folders.

**Coach Class:** Coach Class will be offered on Wednesdays from 2:40-3:15.

**Late Policy:** Points will be deducted for each day after an assignment is due. If there is a concern that a habitual practice of lateness is developing, a parent conference will be requested.

**Projects:** There are two major grade level projects that students are expected to complete. The first project, *The Famous Maryland Noun Project*, is to be assigned in the fall. Details regarding what will be required for submission will be communicated to the students and parents well in advance of the due date. The other project, the *HHA Science Fair Project*, will be due in the spring of this year. Expectations for the project will be released eight to ten weeks prior to the project due date. Additionally, timeline benchmarks are in place to
ensure that students are not completing the project days before it is due. There may be smaller projects required; however, not during the time of the larger grade level projects.

**Portfolios:** Portfolios will be used to demonstrate deep content knowledge of a particular Language or Social Studies/Science concept. Portfolio pieces will be ongoing throughout the year.

**Field Trips:**
Locations and Dates TBD.

**Parent Portal:** All grades are available for viewing on the Parent Portal.

**Teacher Bio:** Ms. Costello is happy to join the community at Hampstead Hill Academy. She is looking forward to building partnerships with families in order to ensure that every student is given the opportunity for success in Language, Social Studies, and Science. She is excited for a great year!