

# **Third/Fourth-Grade Self-Contained/Language Based Classroom**

**Room 35a**

**Ms. Ferrara**

Welcome to Room 35A and third/fourth grade! I'm looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

## **General Information**

This is a mixed-level class servicing both third and fourth graders. Some content will be taught by grade level, some small groups will be mixed grades, and some content will be taught to all students at the same time.

## **ELA**

### **Reading/Writing Instruction:**

Research shows that students who read often and books that are appropriate and at their level become better readers.

In this class, we will be doing many things to help increase reading level and comprehension skills, including guided reading, decoding instruction, and listening comprehension. Instruction will be a combination of whole group and small group.

The goal is to not only improve reading skills, but to build a love for reading; also, to increase confidence when it comes to reading and comprehension.

Students will have to read 10 minutes a night, in addition to their reading in the classroom. This should be kept track of in their reading journal where they are supposed to write every night about what they have read. This journal should be signed on a daily basis. Students **may** complete their reading during the school day if there is time.

In addition, we will do a lot of writing instruction. Writing instruction will be direct and guided.

### **Wilson Reading System**

Some students have received direct, multi-sensory instruction in decoding skills using the Wilson Reading System. Those students that qualify and have received it in the past will continue with this program. Groups will be made based on where they left off in the previous year and based off of their assessment—the WADE—that I give in the beginning of the year.

### **Mathematics**

I will be covering both third and fourth grade mathematics curriculums, with modifications, during the course of the year.

Mathematics will be taught in small groups, by grade level. There will be a mix of new concepts on grade level, as well as review and IEP concepts.

All areas of weakness will be covered, reviewed, and worked on during support times and in their Independent Work folders.

### **Support—IEP Goals**

There will be times when students will be working on assignments that will specifically target their IEP goals or skills that I notice they need more practice with throughout the year. This will be done in small group and also in their Independent Work Folders. This is also a time for us to work on homework that students may have had trouble completing.

## **Homework**

Homework will be assigned nightly. Students will always have 10/20 minutes of reading, journal writing, and a mathematics assignment-- either a video or written work. There may also be other homework that is sent home, but these are the constant assignments. All homework for every subject can be found on my website. There will be no written homework over the weekend.

In addition, any work students do not finish throughout the day/week will be sent home for homework. I do not assign homework on the weekends, but be assured that if students do not finish their work or complete all homework, it will be sent home on the weekends to be completed.

## **Grading**

This year students in both third and fourth grade will receive standards-based report cards. The intent of these report cards is to make the parents aware of how their children are doing mastering the common core state standards at their grade level.

Students will be graded on a 1-4 system. These numbers' meanings are as follows:

- 1—**below basic** grade level standards
- 2—**approaching** the grade level standards
- 3—**meeting** grade level standards
- 4—**exceeding** grade level standards

In addition, students will continue to receive IEP Progress Reports 4 times a year to assess how they are mastering IEP goals.

If you have any questions about your child's grade, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## **Contacting Me**

You can always contact me at my email address [karen.ferrara@wcsdny.org](mailto:karen.ferrara@wcsdny.org). I check my email often and will respond promptly.

You can also call. The phone number is 227-1756 x50740. This is my direct extension. Please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I get it.

In addition, important announcements, homework, support, and other information can be found on my website. Please visit it frequently.