**Mrs. Tomberlin and Mrs. Mitchem’s**

**Fourth Grade Classes 2019-2020**

Welcome to Mrs. Tomberlin’s and Mrs. Mitchem’s 4th grade classes. We hope that everyone had a restful summer. We are eager to get to know your child and begin our educational journey together. This year promises to be a wonderful one. Mrs. Tomberlin will be teaching your child Math and Science, while Mrs. Mitchem will be teaching Language Arts and Social Studies. We are excited to work as a team to ensure that your child is successful this year. We guarantee that your child will feel safe, confident, and accomplished.

**About Mrs. Tomberlin**

I have spent the majority of my life here in Wakulla County. I graduated from Wakulla High School in 2006 and went on to attend TCC and Flagler College. I received my bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education from Flagler College. I previously taught in Leon County for many years. I am very excited to back here in Wakulla County! I am married to my husband Ret and we have two children together. We love spending time on the river, fishing, buggy riding, watching the Seminoles (hopefully winning), and playing games. Some of my favorite things are pineapples and flamingos. I love coffee more than I should. My favorite colors are pink and turquoise. I love traveling, shopping at TJ Maxx, and teaching of course!

**About Mrs. Mitchem**

I was born and raised in Tallahassee, but have lived in Orlando, Tampa, and now, Shell Point Beach. I earned my bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Flager, and I am currently earning my master’s degree in education leadership from UWF. I’ve been married for over seven years and my husband and I have a very personable dachshund, Watson. I enjoy traveling, running, snowboarding, gardening, reading, and fishing from my skiff. I recently learned how to fly fish and am starting to choose that rod over my spinning reel. My favorite colors are turquoise and purple. I believe I have the greatest profession in the world and I cannot imagine doing anything besides working with children!

**Website:**

[**http://mitchemk.weebly.com/**](http://mitchemk.weebly.com/)

Our website is a great tool to use frequently! There, you will find links to sites, subject information, wellness updates, word counts, and more information. We also have a “Wish List” for anyone who wants to donate items.

**Focus:**

Focus is the portal to check your child’s grades. Please make it a habit to use this regularly.

<https://wakulla.focusschoolsoftware.com/focus/Modules.php?modname=misc/Portal.php>

**Behavior System:**

In 4th grade, we want to encourage our students to make positive choices with their behavior and reward them for those choices. Students will be able to earn points in both of their classes for positive academic and behavior choices. Those points will be able to be “cashed” in for rewards every two weeks. Some examples of rewards are: chair swap, hat day, no shoes, computer time, etc. In the event that we may not be making the best choices, the following sequence of actions will take place.

1. First offense: verbal warning
2. Second offense: parent phone call
3. Third offense: parent phone call and lunch detention
4. Fourth offense: parent phone call and office visit.

Any questions and or concerns, please contact your child’s teacher via email or phone.

**Homework System/Policy:**

**Reading Homework:**

Students are to read a minimum of 30 minutes every evening and have their AR Homework Logs signed by a parent or guardian every night.

**Spelling Homework**:

Students have a list of their spelling words for the entire year in their homework folders. Spelling practice at home is up to the parents’ consents. A choice board has been provided so your child can practice writing the words. Spelling tests will be every other Friday.

**Math Homework:**

Students will be given a Math worksheet every Monday. On the worksheet, it is broken up into the days that it should be completed and the skills to be practiced. Homework is due on Fridays.

**Graded Work:**

All graded work for both classes will be sent home with students on Fridays in their AVID binders. Please check Focus weekly to see your child’s grades.

**Renaissance Place:**

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a big part of your child’s reading success. He or she will have an AR goal every nine weeks and he or she will be motivated to meet this goal. On our website, we have a link to Renaissance Place. Here, you can check your child’s AR progress and even be notified when he or she takes an AR test. Students who do not meet goals will not be penalized; however, students who do meet their goals will be rewarded every nine weeks. Some initiatives we’ve done in the past are: water balloon/water fight, kickball tournament, Silly String the teacher, electronic day, pie the teacher in the face, field day, and plenty more! Reading every day is critical. As Dr. Seuss says, “Read every day!”

**Communication:**

Math/Science

Email: Kelly.tomberlin@wcsb.us

 Phone: 850.926.3641

Language Arts/Social Studies

Email: Kelly.mitchem@wcsb.us

 Phone: 850.926.3641

Time: 2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Attendance/Tardy:**

The school day begins at 8:55 a.m. and continues through till 3:25 p.m. Instruction begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Supervision begins in the cafeteria at 8:25 a.m. for those students that are dropped off.

**Snack:**

We will have a working snack every morning and afternoon during centers. Children will be working together in groups and may eat as they work. You may send your child to school every day with his or her own snack. Snacks must be healthy; cookies, sweets, or sugared drinks are not permitted as this has a negative effect on the brain while learning. We encourage snacks and water throughout the day. We do not want children going hungry while their brains are in full mode. Only water is allowed in class. Water bottles are encouraged!

**Florida Standards Assessment (FSA):**

Since your child just graduated from third grade, you are familiar with the state test that takes place around May. However, in fourth grade, students do not just test on reading and math, they also test on writing. Fourth grade is a big transition into text-dependent writing. Students will be taught how to read 2-4 informational texts and then respond to a prompt, using text evidence and elaborating on that evidence. Prepare to see some exceptional samples coming home! (FSA Writing takes place in March.)

**Our Professional Mission:**

We are firm believers that all children do not learn the same way or even on the same day. We find it very necessary to differentiate our instruction daily to meet the needs of all students. We constantly monitor our students’ data to check for progression as well as if there are any changes that need to be made. We believe students also learn a great deal from each other. Therefore, we will do a lot of cooperatively learning in class. This is where students will be working together, either in pairs or groups. We believe that communication between parents and teachers plays a large part in a student's success. We are always available to help and/or answer any questions that you may have. We respond as quickly as we can to any emails or phone calls. Thank you for allowing us to share this journey with you and your child this school year!