



PS/IS 366: Washington Heights Academy

A Neighborhood Learning Community for Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 8

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Dear Grade 4 Families:

Welcome to an exciting new school year at PS/IS 366: Washington Heights Academy! We are honored to be working with your children. One of our primary goals as a Grade 4 Team is to maintain strong home-school connections, and to ensure that all of our students have a positive and productive year.

Curriculum and Instruction

Fourth grade is an important and challenging academic year. Students will engage with complex ideas and will prepare for New York State Exams in Math, English Language Arts (ELA), and Science. We will cover a wide range of content, skills and concepts across all content areas, using the following curricula as a framework:

- English Language Arts (ELA): *ReadyGen*
- Math: *enVision Mathematics*
- Social Studies: *Passport to Social Studies*
- Science: *Measuring Up, FOSS*

Below are some topics and themes that we will explore during the year.

<u>Math Topics</u>	<u>ELA/Social Studies Themes</u>
<p>Topic 1: Generalize Place Value Understanding</p> <p>Topic 2: Fluently Add and Subtract Multi-Digit Whole Numbers</p> <p>Topic 3: Use Strategies and Properties to Multiply by 1-Digit Numbers</p> <p>Topic 4: Use Strategies and Properties to Multiply by 2-Digit Numbers</p> <p>Topic 5: Use Strategies and Properties to Divide by 1-Digit Numbers</p> <p>Topic 6: Use Operations with Whole Numbers to Solve Problems</p>	<p>Unit 1: Becoming a Researcher <i>(Anchor Text: The Tarantula Scientist)</i></p> <p>Unit 2: Three Worlds Meet <i>(Anchor Text: Sign of the Beaver)</i></p> <p>Unit 3: The American Revolution <i>(Anchor Text: Divided Loyalties)</i></p> <p>Unit 4: Interactions in Nature and Culture <i>(Anchor Text: Earthquakes)</i></p>

Your children will continue to develop College and Career Readiness skills and will participate in START Science, a hands-on Science program that students will find especially engaging.

Learning Activities

Students will practice key concepts and skills through a variety of learning activities, and will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate what they have learned. Each unit of study will include:

- Pre- and post-assessments to show how students have grown from beginning to end of the unit
- Daily homework checks and regular quizzes to assess student learning throughout the unit
- Frequent written assignments in all content areas to reinforce and extend student learning
- Collaborative learning activities in which students work in groups, share knowledge, clarify misunderstandings, and support each other’s mastery of the learning targets
- Special projects through which students may express individual understandings and interpretations

Classroom Expectations

To achieve their full potential, all students must be on time, in uniform, prepared with homework and supplies, and fully attentive every day. Please keep in mind the following:

- Homework and reading will be assigned every day. Please make sure your child completes each assignment with care.
- All students must be prepared for school each day with homework and other necessary materials.
- Please review and reinforce school and classroom rules and responsibilities with your child.

Home-School Connections

To keep you informed about what is going on in the classroom, we will send notes in your child's Home Folder, which is where you will also find the Weekly Homework Packet. Please review your child's homework on a daily basis. If you have any questions or concerns, you may send a note with your child in the Home Folder.

We look forward to working closely with all families to support children's progress and to celebrate their growth. We hope to see you at Open School Night, Report Card Conferences, Student Recognition Ceremonies and other special events throughout the year.

We are available by appointment on a weekly basis (Tuesdays, 2:45-3:15). If you would like to set up an appointment, you may contact us at the email addresses below, leave a phone message in the Main Office (212-304-3320), or send a note with your child.

We look forward to sharing a wonderful academic year with you and your children!

Sincerely,

Ms. Shirley Alvarez
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Open School Night **Wednesday, September 25**

Please come and learn more about curriculum and instruction, classroom expectations, special projects, and how we can make this a successful school year for all of our students.