



August 9, 2023

Dear Fourth Graders and Families,

Welcome to fourth grade! I am Anna Blair Williams, your fourth grade teacher. I bet you have a million questions about the year ahead! I wanted to write to you to tell you a little about myself and the upcoming year. Hopefully it will take a little edge off of the beginning of the year!

I was born and raised in Texarkana, USA. Upon graduating from high school I attended Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where I received a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in education. After graduating from Rhodes, I moved to Nashville where I earned my master's degree in elementary education from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.

From Nashville, I was eager to get back to Arkansas to be near my family, and I was soon introduced to the best elementary school in the world, Forest Park Elementary! I taught first grade for three years here at Forest Park, and this is my sixth year teaching fourth grade. I have experienced a variety of educational communities throughout my career and few have been as nurturing as Forest Park. I am so lucky to be at FP!

I am married to Mr. Williams, who teaches just down the hall in second grade. We have two beautiful boys. Anderson is four years old, and Harry turns two years old on August 20<sup>th</sup>! We love walking our dog, Winnie, and playing in our backyard. We have pizza for dinner every Friday night, and reading together before bed is our favorite time of day!

If you are anything like me when I was in fourth grade, you are itching to know what life will be like in our classroom this year. We will be working together for the first few weeks to get to know one another and to establish our routines and procedures. We'll also have the chance to show off what we learned in third grade. This is essential and will *set us up for success* for the rest of the year. Come ready to have fun and work hard!

I LOVE learning, and in fourth grade, believe me—there is A TON of it. Familiarizing yourself with basic math facts has been a focus in the lower grades. Now it's time to utilize all of that knowledge in order to grapple with more challenging, REAL WORLD problems. In addition, you've been *learning to read* for the past five years of your life, and now it's time to start READING to LEARN! I promise you, it's the BEST feeling ever!

Speaking of the past couple of years, I think we all can agree that they have been interesting to say the least. The pandemic has affected all of our lives, and it has most definitely impacted your learning during your kindergarten through third grade years. It's time to really hit the books and LEVEL UP! This year will be all about putting in the hard work to gain more skills and academic strength.

Sincerely,

*Anna Blair Solomon Williams*