

Welcome to 4th Grade!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values®.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our Big 3:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

2021-2022 Big Ideas

August-Wisdom: Finding out what you should do and doing it

September-Initiative: Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

October-Individuality: Discovering who you are meant to be

November-Contentment: Learning to be okay with what you have

December-Service: Lending a hand to help someone else

January-Self-Control: Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to February-

February-Compassion: Caring enough to do something about someone else's need

March-Cooperation: Working together to do more than you can do alone

April-Hope: Believing that something good can come out of something bad

May-Perseverance: Refusing to give up when life gets hard

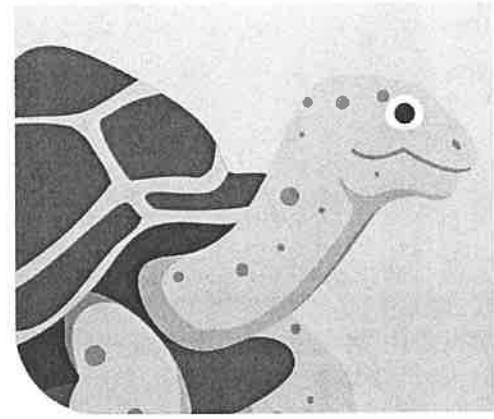
It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of art projects, crumpled writing assignments, and worn-down crayons. After that, your child will be a fifth grader and you'll never know them as a fourth grader again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it.

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project ® about fourth graders:

Fourth Graders...

- ...are motivated by competition.
- ...benefit by being encouraged to be persistent despite their performance.
- ...still need 10-11 hours of sleep each night.
- ...benefit from a best friend and other healthy friendships.
- ...are able to collaborate on rules and consequences.
- ...still may struggle with abstract concepts.
- ...increasingly value peer approval.
- ...might desire more personal privacy.
- ... still hold to family beliefs and values, but may ask challenging questions.
- ...may be drawn to a humanitarian cause and enjoy service opportunities.



What is a Phase?

We've all said it: "It's just a phase." Meaning that your child will get through whatever irritating moment in time he or she happens to be in right now.

But what if we flip that? What if instead of eagerly awaiting the moment when your child will grow out of it, we embraced each Phase as a moment of time that we will never have again?

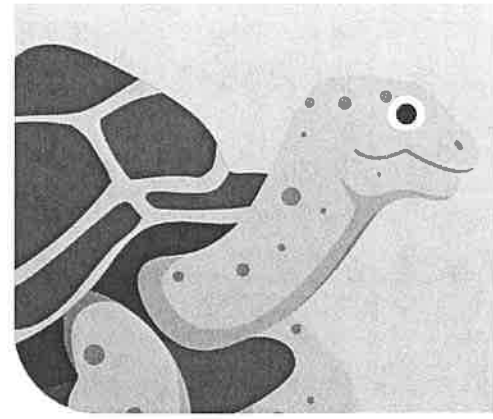
What if a Phase became: A time frame in a kid's life when you can leverage that moment to influence their future.

If you're a planner, you may be concentrating on the future – a phase your child will be in sometime in the future.

If you are nostalgic, you may be focused on what your child used to be like.

But instead, let's focus on how we can use this year, these next 10 months, to influence our kids for the best possible outcome.

So don't miss it. **It's just a phase!**

**SAY IT:**

Wisdom means finding out what you should do and doing it.

KNOW IT:**ASK A KID:**

- Can you think of a time when you didn't know what you were supposed to do? Maybe it was at a practice, a rehearsal, Sunday school, or in your classroom. Did you ask for more information or clarification for what you were being asked to do? How did you feel once you knew what you were supposed to do?
- What are some ways you can show your parents and teachers you are wise?

ASK A GROWN UP:

- Are there times, even as a grown up, when you are unsure about what you are supposed to do? How do you go about finding out what you should do?
- Do you feel confident and ready to go once you find out what you are supposed to do?
- Is it hard for you to ask for more directions if you are unclear about what you are supposed to be doing? Why or why not?

SEE IT:

The movie *Frozen 2* portrays a good example of wisdom. Elsa knows she is being called by something or someone but she is not sure what she is supposed to do. After much debate, she sets out to discover what this calling is and in doing so shows great wisdom. She finds out that she is the fifth spirit. She fulfills her destiny by giving the crown to her sister Anna to rule over the kingdom of Arrendale while she takes her place as a native of Ahtohallan.

BE IT:

Venture over to your local library this month as a family and check out books to read. Each child can select one fiction and one non-fiction book. Grown-ups can do the same. Block out a specific time each evening to devote to "family reading time". Share what you are learning with each other. This will foster a thirst for wisdom.