



# WELCOME TO OPEN HOUSE



Mrs. Wilkerson and Ms. Young  
2023-2024



# ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS

Welcome to the Wilkerson/Young team! We're so excited to spend the next ten months with your sweet kiddos. Throughout this time, we will laugh, play, study, and LEARN (a lot) together, hopefully in a way that inspires so that learning does not cease at our classroom doors. Our promise to you is that we will do everything we can to empty ourselves in order to fill your students with knowledge, love, encouragement, and support. Wherever they go, whatever they do, whoever they become, we will always be interested and invested in your students' journeys. Their joys and sorrows we'll always be happy to share, for they will forever be precious to us. We are humbled that you, as parents, would give us the privilege of sharing in even the smallest part of their education.

It's going to be an amazing year!

# MS. YOUNG

Homeroom Schedule for Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Mrs. Wilkerson's Homeroom Schedule until 11:15 for Tuesday & Thursday

7:00–7:45	MORNING MEETING
7:45–9:25	ELA BLOCK: Reading, Writing, & Social Studies
9:25–10:15	<u><b>SPECIALS</b></u> <b>Monday:</b> Art <b>Tuesday:</b> STEM <b>Wednesday:</b> Library <b>Thursday:</b> P.E. <b>Friday:</b> Music
10:15–11:15	ELA BLOCK: Reading, Writing, & Social Studies
11:15	Switch Classes
11:15–11:40	LUNCH
11:50–12:15	RECESS
12:15–2:10	ELA BLOCK: Reading, Writing, & Social Studies
2:10	DISMISSAL

# MRS. WILKERSON

Homeroom Schedule for Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Ms. Young's Homeroom Schedule until 11:15 for Tuesday & Thursday

7:00–7:45	MORNING MEETING
7:45–10:15	MATH & SCIENCE BLOCK
10:15–11:05	<u><b>SPECIALS</b></u> <b>Monday:</b> Art <b>Tuesday:</b> STEM <b>Wednesday:</b> Library <b>Thursday:</b> P.E. <b>Friday:</b> Music
11:15	Switch Classes
11:15–12:15	MATH & SCIENCE BLOCK
12:15–12:40	LUNCH
12:40–1:05	RECESS
1:05–2:10	MATH+SCIENCE BLOCK
2:10	DISMISSAL



# **POLICIES FOR ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL**

Highland considers any student tardy who arrives to school after our bell rings at 7:30 (unless it is due to a "late" bus). If your child is arriving after 7:30, you must walk him or her to the office where he or she will receive a tardy pass.

Dismissal begins at 2:00 every afternoon. However, no additional changes can be made to transportation after 1:30 p.m. If your child is going to go home a different way than normal, we need written and signed consent from YOU (the parent/guardian).



# POLICIES FOR ATTENDANCE

It is essential for your child to be present, on time, and rested each day. Students are far more likely to thrive academically when they attend school consistently. Reason being, they do not miss important daily instruction, nor fall behind on assignments and class work.

We understand things happen (sickness, family emergencies, etc.), however we urge you, as far as you can help it, to make school attendance a priority. We want your beautiful children here EVERY day for the FULL day. If your child does miss school for any reason, please know it will only count as an "excused" absence if we receive a doctor's note, handwritten letter from parents, etc., describing the reason for the student's absence. This note must be turned in the day of the child's return to school! Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.



# POLICIES FOR BREAKFAST/LUNCH

If students are planning to eat breakfast or lunch at the school, please ensure they have the appropriate funds in their school lunch account. Also, students are to report directly to the cafeteria in the mornings if they are eating breakfast, even prior to reporting to his or her homeroom teacher. We do allow students to eat snacks inside the classroom, however, we ask that all snacks are HEALTHY. This is not only a school-wide rule, but a district initiative as well. As much as we know students love hot chips, candy, soda, etc., statistics show that the absence of certain food groups or nutrients in a child's diet can negatively impact students' academic success, and we want to make certain students have the proper fuel for learning throughout the day. Therefore, please only send with your child snacks with high nutritional value and not snacks high in sugar, salt, and fat content. This accounts for what they pack for lunch as well. Some ideas are fresh fruit, yogurt, pita chips, pretzels, cheese and crackers, vegetables, rice cakes, string cheese, trail mix, graham crackers, raisins, popcorn, granola bars, vanilla wafers, goldfish, fruit roll-ups/fruit leather, mini muffins, etc. PLEASE NO NUTS!





# ALL ABOUT GRADING

We will do our best to update our grade books as regularly as possible throughout the week. If you have not already, we strongly encourage all parents to register for an Active Parent account which will allow you to see all your child's grades online. This year, we will not be sending the actual hard copy of your student's papers home, due to making sure we have the originals filed, but we will be more than happy to make a copy of anything you may want to go back over with your child. Just email us with the specific assignment's name! 😊



# ALL ABOUT HOMEWORK

Being parents ourselves, we understand the limited amount of quality time you have with your children at night. We also understand the additional commitments and obligations everyone has. Therefore, we only believe in giving homework that benefits the child and serves a purpose.

The only time your child will receive homework this school year is if you, as their parent, request extra practice be sent home or if we, as the teachers, notice that your child is struggling more with a certain concept or skill and could benefit from some repeated extra practice. If you do request some extra work be sent home, please grant us a full 24 hours to prepare that work for you as our days can quickly become hectic throughout the instructional day and we may not have a moment to get it all together for you the morning it's asked. We do promise to get that to you as soon as we possibly can. Nevertheless, if your child does not have actual homework each night, please know there are things you can ALWAYS be doing to assist them academically throughout the year. Those things are ensuring your student is studying his or her Greek/Latin roots and vocabulary, reading at least 20 minutes nightly, and practicing his or her math multiplication facts regularly.





# ALL ABOUT LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading not only enriches the knowledge of our students but it enhances analytical thinking and improves vocabulary.

Here at Highland, we follow a program consisting of daily read alouds, novel studies, independent reading, word study, writing workshop and conferencing. In order to help your child be as successful in the classroom as possible, please read with them nightly.

To encourage independent reading and further promote reading, students are being given a "40 book challenge", in which they are being given a goal to read a total of forty books (of their choice) by the end of the year.



# ALL ABOUT WRITING

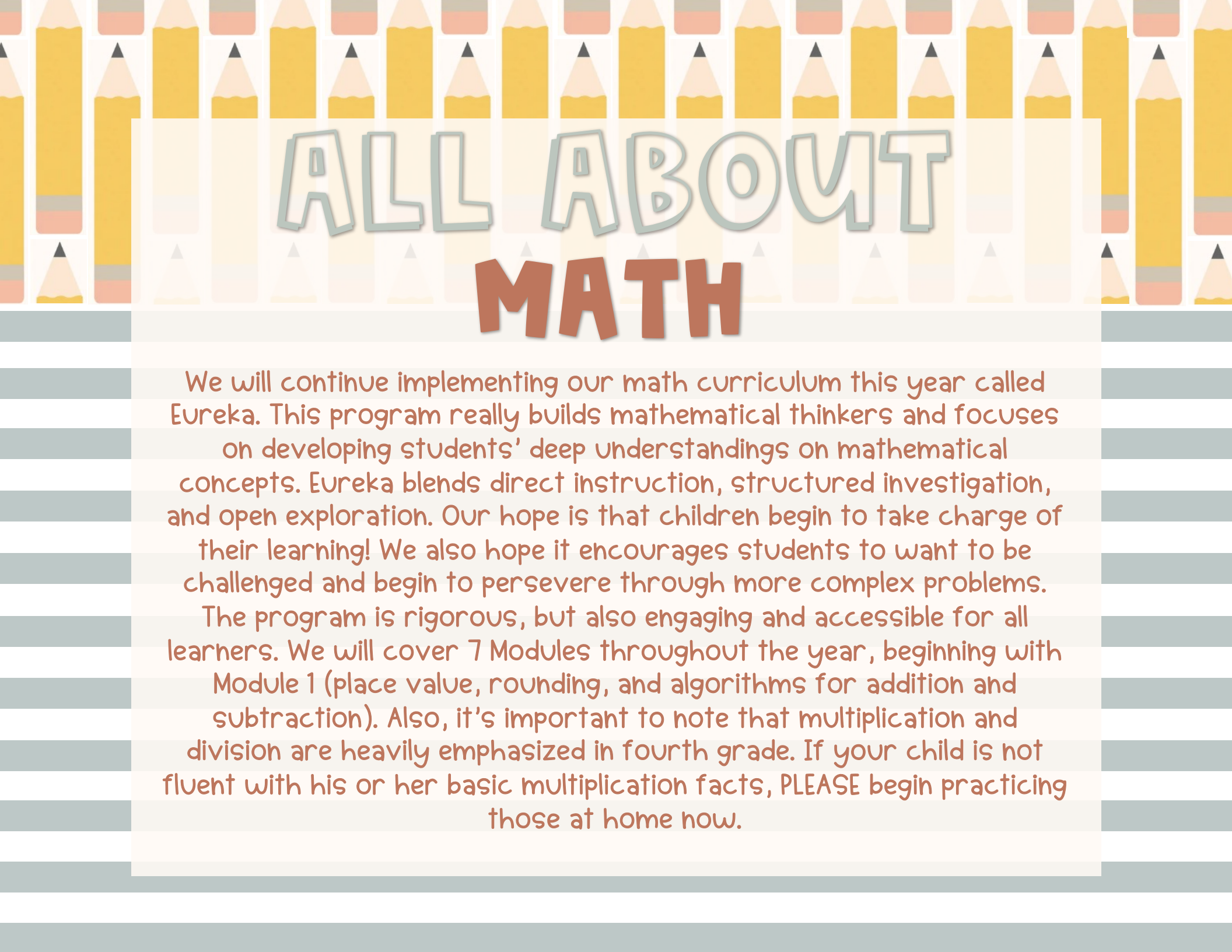
Writing will essentially take place throughout the entirety of our school day. We will teach a variety of writing types including narrative, informational, persuasive and test-based writing.



# ALL ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES

Throughout the school year, students will focus primarily upon Mississippi Studies and Regions in Social Studies. Some of the concepts that will be addressed are:

- ☐ Understanding the purpose, roles, and responsibilities of state and local government
- ☐ Understanding how geography, history, and politics have influenced the development of Mississippi
- ☐ Describing and illustrating geographic aspects of a region using fundamental geographic vocabulary
- ☐ Understanding the roles, rights, and responsibilities of Mississippi citizens
- ☐ Understanding how geographic and environmental factors influence life and work
- ☐ Understanding diversity in Mississippi



# ALL ABOUT MATH

We will continue implementing our math curriculum this year called Eureka. This program really builds mathematical thinkers and focuses on developing students' deep understandings on mathematical concepts. Eureka blends direct instruction, structured investigation, and open exploration. Our hope is that children begin to take charge of their learning! We also hope it encourages students to want to be challenged and begin to persevere through more complex problems.

The program is rigorous, but also engaging and accessible for all learners. We will cover 7 Modules throughout the year, beginning with Module 1 (place value, rounding, and algorithms for addition and subtraction). Also, it's important to note that multiplication and division are heavily emphasized in fourth grade. If your child is not fluent with his or her basic multiplication facts, PLEASE begin practicing those at home now.



# ALL ABOUT SCIENCE

The Mississippi Department of Education implemented a new set of science standards called the Next Generation Science Standards. This year, the students will be learning about:

- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Light
- ☐ Patterns in Waves & Wavelengths
- ☐ Internal & External Structures of Animals and Plants
- ☐ How Animals Process Information (Sensory Processing)
- ☐ Patterns in Rock Formations and Fossils
- ☐ The Effects of Weathering
- ☐ Earth's Landforms and Features
- ☐ Earth's Natural Resources



# ALL ABOUT SPECIALS

MUSIC with Mrs. Mitchell

ART with Mrs. Stenmark

PHYSICAL EDUCATION with Coach Cole

S.T.E.M. with Mrs. Wilson

LIBRARY with Dr. May





# DRESS TO IMPRESS

## THURSDAYS

This will take place the first Thursday of every month, beginning in September. On this Thursday each month, students will be encouraged to “dress to impress” (for example, wearing dresses, skirts, dress pants, blazers, collared shirts, khakis, tie, etc.). We will take time on these mornings to teach simple life skills to help further grow and develop students’ character, manners, integrity, and empathy. These days serve to help increase students’ maturity and strengthen their social skills. We want them to not only be prepared but also be successful in the real world.



# ALL ABOUT THE HOUSE SYSTEM

At Highland, we have implemented Ron Clark Academy's House System. This is a dynamic, exciting, and proven way to create a positive climate and culture for students and staff. It also creates a sense of family that extends beyond your child's classroom. In the last few years, we've seen how the houses have built students' character, relationships, and spirit.

At Highland we have four different houses: Reveur (House of Dreamers), Altruismo (House of Givers), Isibindi (House of Courage), and Amistad (House of Friendship). Each student is now a member of one of these amazing houses and every Friday we encourage students to deck out in their house colors as that is the day we hold our House Meetings. So, if your child does not have clothes in the color of his or her house (Reveur: blue, Altruismo: black, Isibindi: green, and Amistad: red), we hope you will consider getting them some so they can come ready on Fridays!



# ALL ABOUT THE HOUSE SYSTEM

## Stay in The Know!

Please text the following to 81010

Reveur Remind: @hesreveur

Altruismo Remind: @hesaltruis

Isibindi Remind: @hesisibin

Amistad Remind: @hesamistad



# IMPORTANT DATES

September 1<sup>st</sup> – PBIS Celebration

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day Holiday

September 7<sup>th</sup> – Progress Reports

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Grandparent's Day Lunch

September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Titan Homecoming

September 29<sup>th</sup> – First House Challenge

October 9–13<sup>th</sup> – Fall Break

October 19<sup>th</sup> – Report Cards Go Home

October 23–27<sup>th</sup> – Red Ribbon Week

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – PBIS Celebration



# CONNECT WITH US!

**REMIND CODE:**

**INSTAGRAM HANDLE:**

Text @wilkyoung to the  
number 81010

@the.joys.of.love.and.learning

If you join us on Remind by the end of this week, your  
child will receive 5 extra points on their lowest reading  
and math test grades this first nine weeks! 😊