

F A L L 2 0 1 9

# Welcome

To The Funky Monkeys!



## About Miss Kalmus

My name is Marisa Kalmus and I am entering my 14<sup>th</sup> year as an educator in Rochester Community Schools.

I graduated from Michigan State University in 2006 following a year-long 4<sup>th</sup> grade internship with a degree in Elementary Education, specializing in Language Arts.

I began my career as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I spent two years teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade, followed by a 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade combination class, and then moved between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade for the next 9 years. I love both grades and am thrilled to get to teach both at once for the second year in a row!

I am a passionate reader and educator and am so excited to teach and learn from your child

## About Our Class

I'm so glad you'll be joining us in room 24! This year is going to be a wonderful adventure full of fun, friendship, and learning. Students will continue on their journeys to becoming the best readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, and informed citizens they can be. We will work together to create a classroom community where every child is valued for his or her unique qualities. I look forward to facilitating a wonderful year full of learning and growing!

## Save the Date!

August 29th

World of Welcome

September 4th

1<sup>st</sup> full day!

September 19th

Fun Run!

September 3rd

1<sup>st</sup> day! (1/2 day)

September 10th

Picture day!



## In Room 24

I believe that the creation of a classroom community is the most important aspect of the beginning of any new school year. When children feel that they are part of a community, they feel safe, secure, and more comfortable trying new things. They become ready to learn from one another!

If your child ever expresses any concerns to you (social, academic or otherwise), please do let me know and/or encourage him/her to share those feelings with me. As I always tell my students, if I don't know then I can't help!

I hope to become a partner with you in your child's education. Together, I know we can make a contribution that will impact your child for a lifetime. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. The best way to reach me is by email at [mkalmus@rochester.k12.mi-us](mailto:mkalmus@rochester.k12.mi-us). I am sincerely looking forward to working with you and your child.



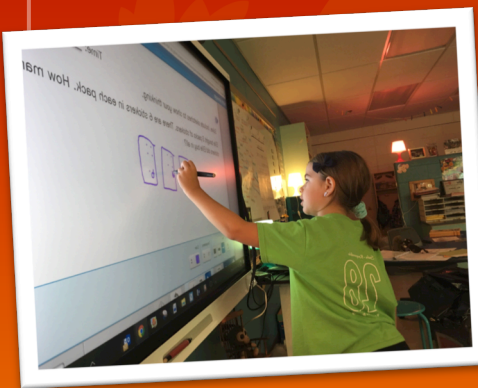
## In a Combination Classroom...



Children spend a year together in a mixed-age learning community. Students are selected with a variety of factors in mind. Children receive more individualized attention because the teacher is leading smaller groups of instruction. All children are expected to act as responsible members of the classroom, behave respectfully, and work well individually. Students develop a high level of self-efficacy and independence as learners.

This year, our third and fourth graders will be treated as equally important, contributing members of the classroom community. All children are held to high expectations dependent on their grade level expectations, as well as their ability levels. Instruction is differentiated by grade level as well as by ability level.

We will go over more specific details regarding things such as daily schedules, curriculum implementation strategies, and time spent with grade level peers at curriculum night. However, if you have any questions before then, don't hesitate to contact me.



## Parent Perspective

In order to be the best teacher I can be for your child, it's vital for me to learn about him/her from YOUR perspective. Who your child is as a person is just as important to me as who he/she is as a learner. Please email me before the first day of school with any information about your child that you believe is important for me to know. Some things that would be helpful are your child's likes/dislikes, hobbies, passions, fears, favorites, etc. If there is anything special about the environment in which your child learns best, please share! It's also nice to know about each child's family, siblings, and pets. If your child has any allergies or medical concerns, this is a good time to tell me about that as well.

While it is of course my job to teach your child the curriculum, I am first and foremost responsible for keeping him/her safe both physically and emotionally. Sharing your perspective on your child will give me a head start in creating a community that is safe for your individual child. Thanks in advance for taking the time to do this!





# Supply List

## Please Note:

Rochester Community Schools provides basic school supplies for students. The following items complement the supplies provided by the district but are entirely optional. Families are under no obligation to purchase or provide these items.

For consistency in the classroom we will be following the 4<sup>th</sup> grade supply list. The lists are very similar, and I appreciate you noting which supplies will be needed for our classroom. Our needed supplies are listed below. If you've already purchased supplies for your child, the additional materials will be provided.

1.5 inch or 2 inch 3-ring binder with plastic insert cover	1 each
Composition Book, Marble Cover, Black, 100 sheets	2 each
Folders, 2 pocket, without prongs, 1 each of blue, green, red, purple, yellow, and black	6 total
Notebook, Spiral, Wide-Rule, 70 ct., 1 each of blue, green, red, purple, yellow, and black	6 total
Post It Notes, 3x3	2 packages
Pencils, Ticonderoga #2, sharpened	Box of 30
Pencil Case (zippered pouch preferred)	1 each
Colored Pencils	1 box, 12 count
Markers	1 box, 10 count
Masking Tape, beige	1 roll
Dry Erase Markers	1 package, 4 count
Wide ruled notebook paper	1 package
Disinfecting Wipes	1 container
Facial Tissues	2 boxes
Pencil Sharpener	1 small personal-sized
Elmer's glue, white	1 bottle
Glue Sticks	2 pack
Highlighter	2 pack
Clear Scotch Tape	1 roll
Scissors	1 each
Index Cards, lined, 3x5	1 package
Flair Pens, black	2 pack
Headphones, labeled (can be earbuds)	1 set