



## PLATO ACADEMY 2021-2022

Ms. Taylor Buck, Math and Science | [buckt@platoacademy.net](mailto:buckt@platoacademy.net)

Ms. Kaeti Hagenbuch, Reading and Writing | [hagenbuchk@platoacademy.net](mailto:hagenbuchk@platoacademy.net)

Welcome to fourth grade! We're looking forward to a fantastic year! This year will be a significant transition year for students, especially in the academic realm. To help students succeed, we will work with your child in developing personal responsibility and perseverance, skills that are undoubtedly crucial in preparing your child for 5th grade and beyond.

You can support our efforts in the classroom by letting your child experience struggle, by putting responsibility on your child when s/he is faced with challenges academically or otherwise, with guidance, of course. We understand that it's hard to see your child struggle in different areas, but the best learning comes when we push ourselves outside our comfort zone and start developing a growth mindset. In our classrooms, we encourage mistakes; we encourage problem solving. Rather than immediately offering a solution to students, we often ask, "How are you going to fix it?"

### Plato Academy's Mission Statement

The mission of the Plato Academy Charter Schools is to assist students in achieving their full potential by requiring and nurturing high academic and behavioral standards in a safe, supporting, challenging, and enthusiastic family environment, providing a well-rounded K-8 education fortified by a study of the Greek language and culture, and fostered by a commitment and cooperative effort among the school, students, parents, and community.

### Class Guidelines & Expectations

Plato Academy Seminole emphasizes Commitment to Character Education. There is no tolerance for bullying, including any physical contact and any derogatory or inappropriate remarks to or about anyone. Students will agree to be kind, responsible, and respectful -- showing respect for oneself, respect for teachers/staff, respect for other students, and respect for school/classroom property. This is a safe school and classroom community. Whenever a conflict is brought to our attention or we notice a disagreement,

depending on the severity of the situation, we hear both sides of the story and help students problem solve, coming up with an agreement. This agreement can range from apologizing to coming up with new guidelines for a game to agreeing not to do a certain behavior anymore. If an agreement cannot be reached, we ask both students to keep their distance from each other and remind them as needed. And, if a student does not follow along with their agreement, additional steps are taken as necessary.

### **Academic Responsibilities**

Students, you are expected to be prepared for class **every day** by bringing your completed homework AND all required materials to class. If you come to class ill-prepared, *points will be deducted from your Participation grade.*

### **Teacher-Parent Communication**

Communication is of utmost importance for us and there are multiple ways for families to contact their child's teacher(s). The best form of contact is through our emails (listed above) and we both will be using Class Dojo. Families can connect to Class Dojo and have access to their student's points/behavior each day. Families can also write a message in the student's agenda or call the front office and leave a message. We will be setting up Beginning of the Year conferences, so please make sure to be on the lookout for that information to come. As of now, you will have the choice to meet face to face or virtually. We believe that communication is key to student success. Please allow 24 to 48 hours for a digital communication response from teachers.

### **Attendance/Tardy Policy**

At Plato, we emphasize regular attendance and being on time. Students, you may enter the classroom at 8:15, once the teacher is standing at the classroom door, to start the morning routine. School starts promptly at 8:40. If you arrive after this time, you must retrieve a tardy slip from the front office. Please refer to the Parent/Student Handbook for more information.

### **Field Trips**

To attend or chaperone our field trips, volunteers must have Level 2 clearance. Parents, please see the office for additional information regarding fingerprinting.

### **Allergy Aware Campus**

Plato Academy Seminole is an allergy/peanut aware campus. Students can have life-threatening peanut/nut allergies, many of which have not only ingestion but also touch allergies to peanuts/nuts. Therefore, our class has adopted a peanut aware policy. Should we have a student with these allergies, I will be asking families to please be considerate and not send any snacks, lunch items or treats that contain peanuts/nuts. We appreciate your help in keeping your child and all of their fellow schoolmates safe.

### **Agenda**

On our school supply list, we requested that students bring in \$5 to purchase a school Agenda. Students will receive their Agenda in class. Students are responsible for writing all homework assignments, upcoming due dates, and other important information in their Agenda. Every morning, this information is displayed on the whiteboard for students to copy. This information is also posted on Google Classroom.

## Curriculum

- o Math curriculum consists of: Pearson enVisionmath 2.0
- o Science curriculum consists of: Pearson Elevate Science
- o Reading curriculum consists of: HMH Into Reading, with supplemental materials from the County
- o Writing curriculum consists of: HMH Into Writing, with supplemental materials from the County.

## Homework

Math and ELA homework is given every Thursday and it is due on the following Wednesday. This year, we will be using a homework system that consists of monthly choice boards. Each month, students will receive a calendar with 16 activities like reading, writing, and math. They also extend into physical activity, art, science, and speaking skills. Students will be able to choose the activities they participate in each week with the end goal having all tasks completed by the end of the month.

## Makeup Work

Students, if you are absent or tardy, it is your responsibility to determine and complete what you have missed, obtaining notes from a classmate or the teacher, as well as additional missed work from the hanging red file folders. For absences, makeup work is expected to be completed within 2 days after returning to school. Pre-assigned work and projects are due on the day you return to class.

## Grading Components

Grades may be accessed on FOCUS (<https://focus.pcsb.org/>). Parents, please see the front office for your login information.

Grades are based on:

### ★ *Assessments/Projects: 30%*

- o All assessments are announced at least a week in advance.
- o **Math:** Students will have lesson quizzes and unit tests throughout the math textbook.
- o **Science:** Students will have in-class science labs with writing components, projects, and unit tests and quizzes.
- o **ELA:** Students will be given writing assessments throughout the year. These assessments will help prepare them for testing at the end of the year and ensure they are ready. Reading unit assessments will be given as each unit comes to a close.

### ★ *Classwork: 30%*

- o **Math/Science:** This is class assignments, small group activities, and daily work.
- o **ELA:** Students will complete daily rotations that will count towards their classwork grade. This will also include different reading and writing activities students complete throughout the year.

### ★ *Homework: 20%*

- o Choice board and any unfinished work in class is considered homework. As per teacher discretion, these may be taken as a completion grade, a grade based on effort, or a grade based on the score earned.

### ★ *Participation: 20%*

- **Math/Science:** This will include our Bellwork Work and taking notes in class. And, once students start presentations, how they are as audience members and participants impacts their grade.
- **ELA:** Students will need to be active members in our classroom community. This includes being helpful during group activities, participating in center rotations, taking notes, and actively participating in class discussions.

We try our best to update students on their grade throughout the grading period as it is our goal to ensure they are successful. If students need extra help it is their responsibility to come and ask. It is recommended that you log on to Focus once per week to monitor your child's grades.

**Campus Address and Phone Number:**

Plato Academy Seminole  
10888 126th Ave. N.  
Largo, FL 33778

Phone Number: (727) 205-6360 (option 4)

**School Hours:**

School hours are from 8:40 a.m.- 3:10 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 4th Grade Syllabus Agreement

Please read through the syllabus carefully and note any questions below. It's very important that teachers, students, and parents are all on the same page regarding 4th grade guidelines, expectations, policies, and procedures. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to note them in the next section and we will respond through email as quickly as we can.

*Note any questions/comments/concerns here:*

Please sign below that you have read, understand, and discussed the syllabus with your child. By signing below, you agree to abide by the 4th grade guidelines, expectations, policies, and procedures that we've set forth.

Parent signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Print name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_