Dear 4th Grade Families,
We’re quickly approaching the first day of the 2020-21 school year! Although the start of the year is unlike any other, we’re so excited to meet your students and make their fourth grade year meaningful. We can’t wait to get to know you all! In the meantime, let’s introduce ourselves:

Welcome from your Classroom Teacher:
My name is Ms. Merriam and this will be my 5th year teaching 4th grade—my favorite! I initially came to Brent as a resident teacher in 2017 where I spent my year with Mrs. Werstuik and I am thrilled to be returning! Since leaving Brent, I earned my Masters in Teaching from Trinity Washington University while continuing to teach 4th grade. Relationship building has always been a priority in my approach to teaching and it will be crucial now—more than ever—that we remain connected and collaborative. I am eager to find ways to tailor virtual learning to your child’s specific needs, striving always to strike the balance between access in rigor. In addition to teaching, I recently purchased a home in Marshall Heights, and ran my first half marathon! In my spare time, you can find me running, biking, or tending to my plants. I also love baking, playing the piano, and spending time with family. I cannot wait to meet you & your students!
With joy,
Ms. Merriam

Welcome from your Focus Teacher:
Your fourth grade focus teacher is Ms. Ullo. She will engage with students across the whole grade level and work closely with students in small groups. Ms. Ullo has worked for DCPS for many years, however she recently moved back from three years abroad in Madrid Spain. While there she worked with third and fourth graders at the American School of Madrid. You can contact her at Megan.ullo@k12.dc.gov.

Please use the following information to gain an understanding of the upcoming weeks.
Virtual Home Visits: During week 1 (8/31-9/4), ECE – 5th grade families and teachers will participate in virtual home visits. Relationship building is the central focus of these conversations that will serve as the launching point for a year-long collaborative relationship. I will share more about these home visits in an email on Friday. Please sign-up for a virtual home visit time here.
Asynchronous Open House: On Friday, we will have an asynchronous open house where your family will be able to watch a video introducing students to their new grade. Keep an eye out for an email on Friday.
Instructional Time for Week 1
To accommodate the home visits, we will have a modified instructional schedule for Week 1. All students will be expected to participate from 8:30-10:00 each day as well as the items below.

• Closing Meeting: Our class will come together for closing meeting each day during Week 1. Closing meeting will be from 2:45-3:15.
• **Small Groups:** Our grade level schedule has small group time across the week. For Weeks 1 – 3, your child will be in the same small group. The attached document titled “2020.8.24 Small Groups Week 1-3” shows your child’s small group assignment. They will be live with a teacher during that small group window.

• **Specials:** Specials will start on the first day of school. Our class will have **Science** every day from 10:15-10:45.

• **PE:** Our class will have PE on Thursday from 1:00-1:45.

Be on the lookout for another email from me on **Friday**! Information about logging on for all components of the schedule will come and be shared with students at morning meeting and throughout Week One. The email will also include more information about the Open House. **We’ll be in touch soon!**