

Dear Parents,

My name is Ms. Doering and I've been a teacher in the Ferguson-Florissant School District for 23 years. I spent 20 years as a 2nd grade classroom teacher. This is my 3rd year teaching 4th grade Probe students.

At the 4th grade level, we are working on math, writing and problem solving skills. Much of our learning will center around the theme #What problem will you solve today? Our 4th graders will assume the role of scientists, as we look to solve the problem "How can we help to save the monarch butterfly and influence others to do the same? Students will research the monarch butterfly, its migration pattern, and the dangers that it faces. We will use a problem based learning approach as we develop solutions to help save the monarch. Problem Based Learning allows students to gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex question or problem. Parents will have the opportunity to view student projects at the end of our unit.

Each day during Probe, students will respond to a writing prompt in their writing journals. This may include writing a story or stating an opinion and supporting it through their writing. We will also do Math, including Prodigy Math on the chromebooks, as well as games and board work. Time will be spent on our PBL as well. In the afternoons, the students will work with me on strategy games.

For some students, Probe activities can be difficult because they are used to feeling competent in their school work. We will work hard to persevere when tasks are difficult. Challenges are good and it is okay to make mistakes while learning. We also use strategy games as a way of practicing strategy skills as well as develop good sportsmanship.

I am excited to be working with your child this school year. If you need to reach me, please email or call and I will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also call Mr. Brown, our secretary if you need assistance.

Karen Doering- 4th Grade Probe Teacher

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